

HOW TO...

Fish the Old Lake

A prolific 200 year old mixed fishery, 12 acres in size with 75 pegs.

FOR CARP!

Species

The Old Lake holds a huge head of carp which average mid to upper thirties, there is also a big head of tench, bream, pike & zander with roach, rudd, perch and crucian carp also present.

Methods

A free running ledger rig (see diagram) is still one of the best methods for catching carp on the Old Lake coupled with PVA mesh bags and stringers.

Tackle

A 12' 2 3/4 lb test curve carp rod coupled with a baitrunner reel (or any good reel with a smooth clutch) is ideal. Minimum line strength should be 10lb BS, the carp go to 30lb in the Old Lake and there is no

reason why you shouldn't hook one!

You will also need a few good quality ready-made hair rigs sizes 4 and 6, but don't forget we only allow barbless hooks at the fishery, a handful of 1oz and 2oz leads as well as some PVA string and a tube of PVA mesh. You must also have a large unhooking mat and specimen sized landing net. We also recommend that you carry a Korda 'Thinking Anglers' Carp Care Kit.

Bait

Quality bait is essential and we would recommend that you use Carp Company Icelandic Red Caviar and Cranberry boilies, which probably catch more carp on the Old Lake than any other boilie, although all good quality boilies will catch. A 1 kilo bag will be sufficient for a day session and you will also need a 1 kilo bag of carp pellet preferably mixed sizes. A few pop up's are also worth a try.



How do I tackle up?

There is no need to get too technical and a free running ledger rig is still one of the best carp rigs to use (see diagram). To set up, thread a lead onto your main line followed by a large bead, next tie on your hair rig, which should have a swivel, attached preferable using a 4-turn grinner knot. Make sure that the knot is bedded down smoothly as

carp pull HARD - its that simple! If you are unsure how to tie a grinner knot, ask Russ or Ken in the shop.

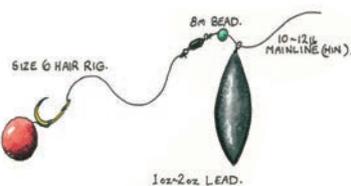
If you intend to use a 'lead safety clip' or 'semi fixed lead rig' as it is sometimes called, which allows the lead to be released should the lead become snagged (see diagram), then please make sure that you follow the instructions carefully and that the lead can 'break away' from the clip easily.



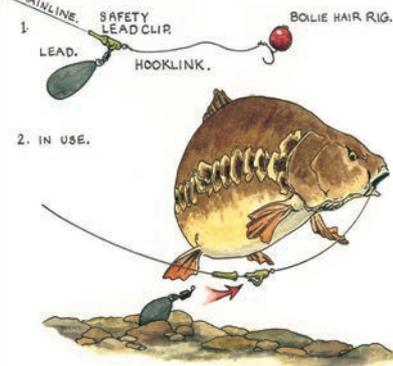
BASIC POP-UP RIG.



FREE-RUNNING RIG.



SEMI FIXED LEAD RIG.





Where shall I fish?

During the warmer months and due to the large numbers of carp present in the Old Lake, you can confidently fish almost any swim on the Old Lake and catch. The secret is to set up well away from the waters edge and away from other anglers and as long as you have 3' of water or more in front of you, fish your bait one-rod length out over a small baited area.

How shall I feed?

Before tackling up, trickle a handful of broken boilies mixed with a handful of pellet to a likely looking spot close in to the bank, either to your right or left where the bank side is undisturbed. There is absolutely no need to fish in snaggy areas i.e. by tree roots, lily pads etc, as a carefully baited area will draw the fish away from any cover. Tackle up quietly so as not to disturb any fish that might be present in your swim and continue to trickle a handful of mixed bait into the swim every 15 to 20 minutes.

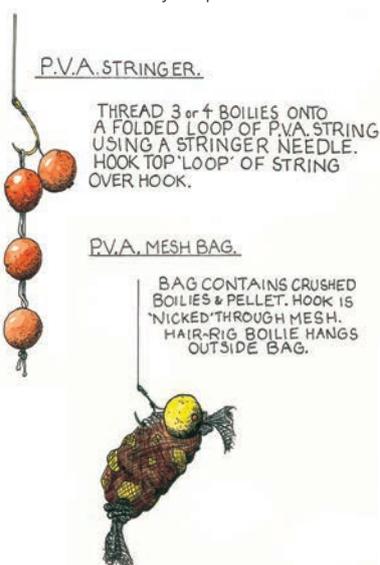
What hook bait shall I use?

You cannot go wrong using boilies, sizes between 14mm and 20mm are ideal. To bait up, thread the boilie onto your hair rig using a baiting needle and secure in place with a hair stop. If using one rod, start with a PVA stringer (see diagram) and a clever trick is to cut your boilies in half and to thread these onto the PVA string, which helps release the

baits flavour much quicker. If using 2 rods, fish a stringer on one rod and a small PVA mesh bag on the other (see diagram) as this will sink faster and dissolve quicker than a PVA bag, filled with broken boilies and pellet mixed together and simply hook your baited rig through the mesh into the middle of the bag. A 14mm to 20mm pop-up is also a good bait and can be used with either a free running rig or a semi-fixed rig (see diagram). Attaching the pop up to the hair rig is exactly the same as for a boilie, the only difference being that you will need to fix a small AA shot or piece of rig putty approximately 2" from the hook to anchor the pop-up.

Vital tips

When casting, cast out to your chosen spot as gently as possible causing minimum splash and disturbance and position your rod tip so that it is touching the surface of the water pointing towards your bait or if it is windy, place your rod tip a few inches under the surface. This also allows your line to sink to the bottom near your rig as tight lines can spook the carp. Remember your biggest advantage whilst fishing for carp is for them to be unaware of your presence.



Fish Care!

Have your landing net, unhooking mat, weigh sling, camera and hand towel ready to use BEFORE you even get a bite. Do not rush when unhooking your fish, once the fish is in the net, lift it carefully onto the unhooking mat, which should be wet. Make sure that the fish is being attended at all times and unable to flap about off the mat. Treat any mouth damage or sores using your

Korda 'carp care kit' and return the fish using a sling or net to the water by lowering the fish into the water using two hands and gently hold the carp underwater until you feel it is strong enough to swim away. However, please DO NOT carry fish without using a sling or net making sure that the fish's fins are flat so as not to bend them when lifting the fish. If you need help, please ask a nearby angler or a bailiff.

One last point

Carp are hooked and lost mainly due to two reasons!

1. The clutch on your reel has been set too tight, you should be able to comfortably pull line off the reel with your hand, it is better to have your clutch set too weak as you can tighten the clutch during the fight.
2. Check that your hook point is sharp, if in doubt cut it off and tie on a new one, it's no good losing your first 20lb carp for the sake of a few pence.



Fish are living creatures so please be kind to them!

- Make sure your hands are wet before handling a fish.
- Land all fish using a 'fish friendly' landing net before placing the fish on an unhooking mat.
- If a fish is deep hooked and you cannot easily remove the hook using a disgorger, cut the line by the mouth and return the fish immediately to the water.
- Return all fish as swiftly as possible.
- Never lift a fish off the ground, especially to take a photograph. A dropped fish is a dead fish.
- We take a pride in our clean tidy fishery, so please do not leave any rubbish – there are bins provided near the boathouse area.

PRO-FISH
ANGLING
COURSES

Whether you're a beginner or a long time angler, you can boost your confidence and catches with the help of private tuition. Chris Maltby, our resident big fish tutor offers both

day and half day sessions as well as night sessions. With costs starting at just £65, there really is no better way to improve your carp fishing skills. Chris can be contacted on either (01403) 823144 or (07743) 938040.



BURY HILL FISHERIES, THE BOATHOUSE, OLD BURY HILL, WESTCOTT, DORKING, SURREY RH4 3JU.
TELEPHONE: BAILIFF (01306) 883621
ADMINISTRATION (01306) 877540 FAX: (01306) 877545
EMAIL: INFO@BURYHILLFISHERIES.COM