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CARP-TALK

8-14 MAY 2013 **ISSUE 968** £1.85

**EXCLUSIVE STORY BY
CAPTOR COLIN SMITH**

**WORLD
RECORD
COMMON**

100¹/₂ LB

THE SAUSSAIE COMMON

**UP YOUR
CATCH RATE
WITH TEAM**

KORDA
THINKING TACKLE

**LINEAR TURNS ON
ST JOHN'S
JEWELS**

**46²oz
LB**
IAN WELCH



THE BIG COMMON

43¹/₂ LB
MATTHEW REPTON



THE BIG PLATED



76lb
6oz

Zig Bug record?



Alan Grainger has reported this 76lb 6oz common from DreamLakes, France, – and it was caught on a Nash Zig Bug Beetle!

Alan told *Carp-Talk*: "The weather was mild with a gentle south-westerly breeze and overcast; conditions seemed perfect, albeit the water was still very cold. I was using a Zig Bug fished at 4ft depth in 7feet of water at around 60-70 yards range at the back of the ripple line at the windward end of the lake. The only fish caught the previous day on the lake was a 33lb 14oz mirror that I also caught on the Zig Bug after continually altering depths, so I decided to fish the Zig Bug through the night at the depth used to catch the previous fish. The take was a steady run at around 5.15am, and the fish really wanted the Zig Bug as the bait was a good three or four inches inside the mouth."

Competition winners

Navitas Combo (issue 962): Ryan Taylor from Honor Oak, London, and Thomas Hannah from Coventry.
Innovate Baits (issue 962): R Spanton from North Walsham, Norfolk.
Wychwood Solace Alarms (issue 963): Gareth Harding from Canterbury, Kent, Bradley Steer from Guildford, Surrey, and James Elliot Collins from Swinton, Manchester.
Castaway PVA (issue 964): Alan Pugh from Southampton, Roy Hohlweg from Newquay, Cornwall, Andy Ellis from Rochester, Kent, and John Lockhart from Woodford Green, Essex.

Cavagnac stonker

This 85lb 2oz mirror was caught during a week on Lac Chateau Cavagnac, France, by Adam Sutton from Braintree, Essex.

The 28-year-old carpenter, who used 20mm Cavagnac Specials, told *Carp-Talk*: "I baited an area at 30ft range with eight kilos of boilies in a line and left it for four days before putting my rig on the spot. At eight o'clock the next morning my alarm screamed and the rod flattened when I picked it up and struck. I knew it was a good fish as it stripped line at an alarming rate, and the clutch was set very tight. It stormed into a set of lilies but it wasn't a problem as the line cut through the stems like butter and it was off again. It surfaced in front of my jetty 45 minutes later and I managed to get it into the net. My heart was pounding when I saw the size of it!"

Adam offered a pop-up on a size 4 ESP Raptor hook, a 10-inch 25lb Kryston Mantis Dark hooklink and a 3oz Fox lead. Tackle also included a 12ft 3lb S Plus rod, a Fox Stratos 12000FS reel and the lily-cutting 15lb Soft Steel Camo line.

85lb
2oz

D
MON

shape of a 35lb mirror, which was followed at around midday with my second fifty of the trip: a 57lb 6oz mirror. Then, just after it got dark, a 40lb 2oz mirror put in appearance, making it five fish in total in a little over a day – things were going well.

"The Monday produced a couple of smaller fish, then on the Tuesday morning the fish really started to show themselves, with one leaping clear of the water near the tree line at about 65 yards out. I chose to reposition my baits as a result and went on to land a 41½lb mirror just a few hours later.

"I rebaited the same area and sat back awaiting further action, and then at 6.45pm it came, as my Delkim let off an unrelenting high-pitched screech. After bending into the fish, I could feel an extremely heavy weight just plodding around on the end; it was

obvious this was another big fish, and possibly bigger than the fifties I'd already landed. The fish made a couple of runs and then tried to get in the snags down to the right of my swim, but fortunately I turned it by giving it a lot of stick. It then passed directly in front of us and headed to the left of the swim, giving us a glimpse of its size in the process – it looked huge! The fish then rolled a few times close in, making the biggest vortexes I have ever seen, and wallowed around for about 10 minutes before, amazingly, with its head touching the spreader block and its tailing hanging out the end of my 42-inch net, the fish was scooped up first time by Mark.

"Everyone on the lake was called over at that point, along with the bailiff, as we knew by then it was the big one. The lake has its own scales and sling for this particular fish and everything has to be done officially when it is on the bank. The fish was extremely well behaved, making weighing and photographing it a lot easier than you might imagine. Lifting it for the cameras wasn't the easiest of jobs but, thanks to the adrenaline pumping around my

body, I was able to hold it aloft for long enough to get a few pictures.

"The fish was absolutely immaculate; even its mouth was in perfect condition. It clearly hadn't been hooked and lost by anyone for a long while. We didn't want to keep it out the water for too long, so I got in the water with it for a few more shots before allowing it to swim away, which it did, and strongly at that. I turned round to look at everyone on the bank and they were all completely blown away, as was I; to see something on the bank that size was completely beyond belief.

"The session resumed that night, but it took until Friday before I received another take, which I assume was something to do with the disturbance caused by Tuesday's capture. However, that morning I picked up a 28lb mirror and wrapped up proceedings for the week at around 7pm with, perhaps fittingly, another common of 51lb 2oz, my third fifty and fourth 50lb-plus fish of the trip.

"The last thing I expected was to head home a world-record holder, as I'm just a fisherman at the end of the day, but there's no denying the fact the capture of the

big common will live with me forever."

The rig Colin used to tame the incredible fish comprised 20lb Atomic Jel-E-Wyre and a size 6 Korda Kaptor Kurv hook, with a 3oz square pear lead attached via a lead clip. His main line was 12lb Kontour, which he loaded on his brand new Shimano Technium MgS reels, whilst his rods were custom made from Torrix blanks.

Late news

Down in Kent, Kevin Dent bagged a 44lb 14oz mirror from Strawberry Fields.

Amongst the forties in Essex, Michael Forbes 40lb 14oz common from Fryerning Fisheries, and Steve Day tempted a 40½lb mirror from a private lake.

Andy Muir continued his recent run of success with 40½lb mirror, a 37½lb linear, and a 30½lb mirror from the Roach Pit.

Richard Dean caught a 41½lb mirror from a Berkshire syndicate water, and Rob Shanks matted a 40lb common from a private Norfolk water. Photos and full stories of all these next week.