

# Try Something DIFFERENT

Follow **Jon Arthur** through a session as he tackles a lake that he has never fished before.

I have fished the impressive main block at Burton countless times because it's a huge 124-pg water that holds some really prestigious events in the match calendar. It's the place where I was crowned UK Champion again last year, so that's something I will never forget. Even without that experience it's always a nice feeling driving down the long lane to the venue, crossing the River Elyne, going through the post iron gates, past the solar panels and golden arches pulling up in the restaurant car park full of anticipation for the prospect ahead. There's also another nice landmark that I'm sure every angler makes a quick glance as seconds after crossing the river and that's the little lake on the left-hand side. It's called Daisy's Lake. It's a much more modest 18-pg pond dotted with reeds and lily pads, plus four little islands down the middle. I've always wondered what's swimming about in that little lake but I've never had a chance to fish it... until now!

## CORNER PEG

When the editor asked me to have a go on this lake I jumped at the chance. Who doesn't like fishing a new water for the first time? I did a quick circuit of the lake to pick where to fish. There were no obvious signs of fish on the top or shooting down the edges but I could already see a couple of anglers playing fish at the roadside end. Being me, however, I had no hesitation in heading straight for the opposite corner. I've been called

## ANGLER FILE

**JON ARTHUR**  
Age: 40 (Not 64)  
Using: Caldec  
Sponsor: Drennan, Aqualite Corp

## VENUE FILE

**DAISY'S LAKE**  
Location: Burton Lakes, North House Farm Lane, Burton, Shifnal, Shropshire TF12 0LA  
Day ticket: £8.50; concession £5.50  
Contact: 01975 816160  
Web: [www.burtonlakes.co.uk](http://www.burtonlakes.co.uk)



Several good specimens like this also resulted in on the scorecard.

End Peg Archer ever since I was a club angler, but it's been like ages since I drew one of these hallowed pages! There was next to no wind and the only scum on the surface had collected nearer the roadside pegs, but this area still looked like it should be worth a few fish.

The island was well beyond pole reach but there was a nice, long margin to my right, plus a fishy-looking clump of reeds to my left around four metres down the bank. The longer margin was definitely going to be my main target but a lot of people don't seem to realise that you can often catch fishing the opposite way as well, so this shorter section was not to be ignored. I could feed this spot by hand and hoped to see the reed stems swishing if the fish arrived here.

Because it was to be a short session, my plan was to keep things really simple and target these two margins most of the day. However, by swinging the pole out into the open water I could also use the same margin rigs to try up in the water if the fish could be enticed shallow. It was a simple two-way link that may or may not work on the day.

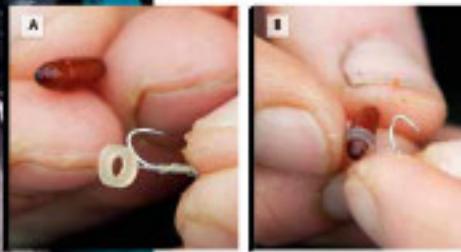
## WHAT BAIT?

The obvious bait I would advise anyone to carry on a lake they have never fished before has to be pellets. This is the safest option for a good day and should catch you a few carp whatever the time of year. However, me being me, I wanted to do something a bit different this time. So, there wasn't a single pellet on my side rig!

Instead, I had a couple of pugs of fresh carrots, plus live and dead maggots for the hook and leftover cubes of red-dyed meal from a recent match.

Apart from the fact that it's nice to do something different, I'd noticed a load of maggots in my pond at the weekend. That's a sure-fire sign that other life forms are getting ready to spawn, if they hadn't already. When this happens, carpers can really begin to work well. Quality fish love crunching carrots and they make a lovely fish-attracting noise.

## BANDING CASTERS



The Mini Drennan Goliath bands house a caster perfectly.

You can simply slide them into the band without breaking the shell.

on the water as well. I also don't think they act as filling as pellets, so you can be more aggressive with the feed without overfilling the fish. Given the choice between loose feeding bait and frugally kinder-feeding a few mites and it's the easy every time for me!

I doubts these fish had seen many carpers but that didn't worry me. All species love carrots, so it's a good choice for telling me exactly what's returning about.

## SHIRE SLOP

One other item we on any side rig is a tub of sloppy groundbait. The main feed will be loose-fed carrots and these will spread over a couple of metres, so the groundbait helps to create more of a focus area.

The rate is about a quarter of a bag of Somnuska Crushed Expander mixed up to a really sloppy porridge. I only really needed a couple of pugs but I forgot just how much this stuff smells!

Groundbait is great for feeding down the margins because it's the fish grubbing around. Being sloppy makes it cloud quite nicely too. I don't want the fish preoccupied on the stuff, however, so I'm only feeding half a tubful per the acre and a very occasional smaller top-up if I feel the swim needs it. The shorter left-hand swim will also be fed with an occasional, sloppy, coheres-based ball thrown in by hand.

## RIGGING UP

My main rig for my 2m margin swim is a really tied-and-trusted setup, consisting of a 0.5g Drennan A54 float on 0.1mm Supplex main line. With scattered reeds and ridges leading towards the fish the fish could plough through you need strong and reliable line, plus a float that won't fall apart.

The hooklength is 0.15mm to a size 18 Carp Hair Biggin hook. In fact, it's actually a Drennan Carp Bands hooked to nylon, **20**



Jon Arthur feeding his sloppier groundbait mixture for carp and F1s.