

LONG COMMON

by Alan "Camo" Turner

I started my quest for the Long Common at Christmas thinking that it would be a good time to learn the water while it was quiet.

After recently landing a pike on my fishmeal boilies I asked the lads at Premier, Steve and Paul to design me a bait for Conningbrook. They asked me what type of flavour I wanted in the mix and I replied nothing fishy! They put their heads together and blended a high quality bait that would be less attractive to pike but a perfect food source for the carp. The all new base mix and attractor package was now ready. After Si and the rolling team had the finished product it smelt just like peanut butter (perfect) in 20mm. Paul then rolled me some extra hard hookbaits to allow for my tactics on the brook. Leaving my hookbaits out for 48 hours, this was essential.

We had been demonstrating rigs to some of our customers and Steve had tied a 4" stiff rig using 15lb esp stiff rig filament and a size 7 stiff rigger hook I said that I wanted to give one a try so I attached it to a Korda gravel chod rig

I arrived at the lake to find just two anglers. One was on the island and the other was on the long lawn. I chose to fish the bay swim at the other end of the lake knowing the wind was going to swing around from southwest to southeast blowing straight into my swim. My left hand rod was placed in the margins, my middle rod was cast 40 yards to the back of a thick weed bed and my right hand rod was cast 80 yds to a small gravel patch. Nothing much happened until the second morning and the wind had swung completely round, it was now northeasterly (although I now had the fish in front of me with the wind blowing down the other end of the lake). I had a bleep from my middle rod and noticed my line rising out of the water where a large mirror had surfaced like a submarine, picking up my line as

it surfaced it then went down and resurfaced taking something off the top. I quickly put out a couple of pouches of mixers and went to reel in my right hand rod when I had a single bleep. I noticed the line starting to kite left on picking up the rod and pulling into the fish all I felt was the grating of weed. I could not feel the fish at all but I started to pump in a huge ball of weed. When it was 20 yards out I saw a tail so I pumped it in closer. I dropped my rod and started to hand line the fish towards me until I could reach the weed and pull it off the line. When I had cleared most of it the fish then surged back out towards the middle of the lake. I picked up my rod and gained control. The fish went under the trees to my right, I guided it out into the net but it surged off again. After a short fight the fish did the same again but this time as the fish swam over the net I scooped it up. I was not sure which fish it was at first, just glad to have my first brook fish. When I unfolded the net I knew I had my target fish - the Long Common. I quickly weighed it and could not believe it when the scales rested at 40lb-8oz. I had to weigh it again just to make sure! Not only is the fish the one that I wanted, but a pb Common at over 40lb.

My thanks to Ginge who took the photos - pukka job mate! Also to Tony and the lads at Premier for a terrific bait and to Chris Logsdon who suggested I made the move from Chilham Mill to Conningbrook. Oh yes and to Thomas at work for my much needed cup of tea when I returned to work.

I used Dave Lane Razors 12' 3.50lb, Daiwa Basias, and Ultima Power Plus in 15lb.

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