



Western Reservoir Newsletter



A lot of prospective Members request additional background information about the **Western Reservoir Syndicate** and enquire about how it has progressed during its opening year. I've written this Newsletter to bring everyone up to date and provide more detailed information about the Syndicate.

I've collated information from the catch reports that were sent to me, and have listed some of the fishing highlights that occurred during 2012. I've also included a write up of my own exploits at the Western, which I hope will give you some indication as to how things are going at the venue and be of interest to you.

Have a great year and enjoy your carp fishing wherever you wet a line.

Best regards,

Steve Jackson

2012 Catch Reports

329 carp were reported in total, 314 of which were weighed, the table below shows the figures for the fish that were weighed.

	2012 Captures		Smallest	Largest	Average	Doubles average	% < 5lb 8oz	% > 5lb 8oz < 9lb 15oz	% > 10lb	No. of Doubles
May	91		2lb 6oz	16lb	8lb 10oz	12lb 13oz	17.28	50.62	32.1	26
June	32		2lb 8oz	15lb 7oz	8lb	12lb 5oz	21.88	53.12	25	8
July	98		3lb	17lb 8oz	8lb 8oz	12lb 8.5oz	28.57	36.74	34.69	34
August	62		1lb 3oz	17lb 15oz	8lb 9oz	12lb 6oz	29.03	26.71	44.26	26
September	25		6lb	19lb 4oz	12lb 3.5oz	13lb 14oz	0	25	75	18
October	10		5lb 14oz	14lb 12oz	9lb 13oz	12lb	0	50	50	5
November	9		9lb 8oz	19lb 10oz	12lb 6oz	12lb 15oz	11.11	33.34	55.55	5
December	2		7lb 9oz	15lb 6oz	11lb 7.5oz	15lb 6oz	0	50	50	1
Totals	329									123
Eight	Month	Average			9lb 15oz	13lb	13.48	40.69	45.83	

I requested that all carp captured should be weighed so I could try and establish how many of the 460 C2 fish stocked in March 2011 had come through. The catch reports show that a good number of these fish have recruited through (which I'm obviously very pleased about!) this is borne out by the statistics above which show an increase in the number of fish captured below 5lb 8oz in weight during the first four months of the Syndicate operating.

The vast majority of the 285 carp stocked in April 2012 were above 5lb in weight, with a lot of the fish being in the 7-9lb size bracket, the average weight of the fish when stocked was approximately 7lb, with one in five carp being a double figure fish.

The statistics show that the carp have made good weight gains with the percentage of captures reported in the 5lb 8oz – 9lb 15oz bracket decreasing and the percentage of captures in the 10lb+ bracket increasing on a month by month basis during the summer, this despite an increase in the number of fish caught below 5lb 8oz from the March 2011 stocking being made during the same period.

One in five of the doubles captured were in the 15 – 19lb+ size bracket (average 16lb 10oz), the majority (62.60%) of double figure fish reported were in the 10 – 13lb size bracket and are fish that have grown on since being stocked at 7-9lb in April 2012, this accounts for the average size of the doubles being 13lb and the overall average weight of captures made to date being 9lb 15oz.

I think it's reasonable to expect that the 320 C2 & C2.5 carp stocked in October 2012 will make similar progress to their brethren that have been introduced over the last two years, and I hope for a warm spring and summer this year to assist the good growth rate of all the fish.



2012 Highlights

There were too many multiple hits last year to list them all here but some of the highlights from the last eight months have been:

May 2012

Scott F. who had a very busy 24 hour session landing 16 fish including doubles of 13lb 9oz, 14lb 6oz and 14lb 9oz. Keith G. banked 8 fish in 48 hours, 7 of which were doubles up to 16lb.

June 2012

Tony who on a quick overnight visit netted 3 fish including a brace of doubles at 14lb 2oz and 15lb 2oz. Mick R. managed 9 fish between 6lb 4oz and 11lb on an overnight session.

July 2012

Neil who had 13 takes capturing 11 fish on an 18 hour session including a lake record 17lb 8oz mirror. Darrell on his first visit to the Western landed a hat trick of fish at 9lb 5oz, 11lb 7oz and 16lb 6oz.

August 2012

Alan U. who landed 5 fish including doubles of 11lb 12oz, 15lb 8oz and 16lb 14oz on an overnight visit. Scott E. banked 16 fish including 6 doubles up to 16lb during a two night session.

September 2012

Stef who having caught one fish after his first night upped sticks and moved to the opposite end of the reservoir, a good move as he ended up with 10 captures in total including fish of 8lb 4oz, 9lb 3oz, 10lb 2oz, 12lb 4oz, 12lb 11oz, 13lb 7oz, 14lb 6oz, 14lb 13oz, 17lb 12oz and a new lake record fish of 19lb 4oz!

October 2012

Steve J. who on his first overnight session managed five takes and landed four fish including doubles of 10lb 12oz, 12lb 8oz and 14lb 12oz. Stephen W. netting a brace of doubles during a short day session.

November 2012

Steve J. on his second overnight visit netted a cracking 19lb 10oz lake record mirror, a fish that was last banked at the start of July at 17lb, one of several carp that are growing well in the Western, and incidentally a different fish to Stef's 19lber from September. Winter Ticket holder Gary F. landed a nice brace of doubles to 13lb 14oz on his first over night visit.

December 2012

Winter Ticket holder Joe who on his first overnight visit had three takes and banked fish of 7lb 9oz and 15lb 6oz.



Western Reservoir Exploits 2012

With so little having been caught from my other Syndicate waters in the last five months of 2012 I thought I would update you about some of the fishing I've enjoyed at the Western during my last few visits.

Since opening the reservoir in May I've only had a chance to get the rods out on a handful of occasions fishing for a few short hours on daytime sessions with my daughters Emily and Charlotte during the school summer holidays.

Our first visit together was a memorable one though, as we had 9 takes and landed 7 fish between us in seven hours or so of fishing, the girls each managed to bank a new PB mirror netting fish of 11lb and 12lb 15oz, Emily was particularly pleased with her capture as she now has bragging rights over her younger sister as to who has caught the largest carp!



Emily and Charlotte with their PB Western carp

Typically my first carp from the Western was the smallest of the seven we caught at 3lb 6oz. I confess to being well chuffed about it though as it was one of the C2 carp that were stocked into the reservoir in March 2011, a good number of which seem to be coming through the ranks and are now being caught and reported to me in the 3 – 5lb+ size bracket, a fact I'm rather pleased about!

It means all the hard work and stress that went into stringing and netting the lake they came from to catch and transfer them to the Western was worthwhile, phew!

My best carp on our first visit was a sturdy 9lb 8oz mirror, so I didn't suffer too much ribbing from the girls about not having caught a double when they had!

We made a few other 5-6 hour visits during the summer and were lucky enough to catch on every trip, although its fair to say the girls weren't initially keen to up sticks and move from one side of the reservoir to the other whenever I spotted fish showing on the opposite bank, they sharp changed their minds about the decision though when we started catching shortly after moving!

My first 'proper' session at the Western was an overnighter on 15th October, during which I was lucky enough to manage 5 takes and land fish of 6lb 13oz, 10lb 12oz, 12lb 8oz and 14lb 12oz, unfortunately I lost the last carp I hooked which felt a much bigger fish, isn't that always the way.....



Here's the largest of the 4 fish landed on my 1st 'proper' session at 14lb 12oz

As part of the on going stocking policy for the Western another 200 C2 and 120 C2.5 carp were due to be stocked on 24th October.

In need of a break from a punishing work schedule I took the opportunity to wet a line for 4 hours ahead of the fish arriving, luck was with me again as I netted mirrors of 5lb 14oz and 8lb 9oz in short order, the first coming an hour after having cast out, much to my surprise and that of one of the Members who had fished overnight without success.

The fish stocked later that afternoon were stunners which I'm sure will become an asset to the Syndicate in years to come.





Some of the latest stock of C2's and C2.5 carp going onto the Western

The initial stocking of carp that took place earlier in the year have settled in nicely, and seem to be growing well in the reservoir, the best of them have certainly gained a comfortable 3lb since being introduced, and I'm hopeful the new arrivals will attain similar growth rates in due course.

In preparation for my second overnighter I decided to pre-bait heavily in advance, I spombed bait in on each of the three very cold and frosty mornings which preceded my session, only stopping when I ran out of bait or the frostbite was too much to put up with!

I confess to questioning my own sanity about using such a tactic with the water temperature having fallen to 4°C, but I had a plan and I was going to stick with it.

I reasoned that the silver fish and gudgeon would be attracted to the baited area and that the carp shouldn't be too far behind.

I arrived at the reservoir on the morning of 7th November having just worked 75 hours/7 days in a row at my shop it would be fair to say I was looking forward to my session!

The 40- 50mph winds made setting up interesting to say the least, but the temperature was on the rise and I felt confident something **might** occur.

During the day the water temperature slowly crept up and by early evening it had reached and peaked at 5.5°C, I've written previously in other Newsletters about '5' being a magic number in the winter months, and so it was to prove again.....

The wind was still lively with some very strong gusts causing the indicators to rattle and dance incessantly to a tune of their own this was going to be one long and restless night which would surely mean no sleep for me.

As I lay there tired after too many days of work and no play waiting and willing for sleep to overtake me the delkim concerto in 'c' minor was starting to really irritate me; blee, bleep, blip, bleep, blee-blip, bleep-bleep bleeeep, ahhhggghhh!

I'd just checked the time and was praying the breeze would ease overnight when a squally gust caused all three indicators to bounce lighting up the receiver and making the alarms squawk at the same time, it was enough to make me sit up in bed glance out the bivvy and check that the rods were still on the rests!

Check time again, 10.30pm bleeeeeeeeeeeep a one toner 'carp on' and gathering speed as the bait runner squealed its protest. A good 10 minutes or so later after having given a cracking scrap I had a real nice fish in the net, I quickly unhooked her and placed her in a short term flotation sling to recover while I sorted the appropriate gear out to weigh and photograph my capture.

On the scales she weighed in at **19lb 10oz** I was absolutely buzzing having just been lucky enough to have caught a new lake record, the carp gods were certainly smiling down on me! She was last on the bank in the first week of July at 17lb to say I was more than made up would be an understatement!



Here's the current Western lake record 19lb 10oz

Incidentally it's a different fish to the previous lake record of **19lb 4oz** caught by Western Member Stef during a two night session on 5th September, his very impressive haul also included carp of: 8lb 4oz, 9lb 3oz, 10lb 2oz, 12lb 4oz, 12lb 11oz, 13lb 7oz, 14lb 6oz, 14lb 13oz and 17lb 12oz.

I'd never fished a reservoir before starting the Western Syndicate, and although early days what I like about it is the fact the fish don't seem to hold up in one area, as they would in snags or around islands, or along reed or tree lines as they tend to do on other venues I fish, they patrol the biggest feature in the lake the 'margins' so in theory there shouldn't be any areas the fish become pressurised in as at some point they will tour all of the reservoir.

The fish travel around in shoals consisting of anywhere between five to fifty carp and they like a fair bit of feed, during my short daytime visits I was using up to 7kg (dry weight) of cooked wheat and 7kg of pellet along with a couple of kilos of boilies to hold them or get them interested in feeding.

Other observations are that the carp follow a new wind very quickly, and even when it's hot and sunny I've found fish that are willing to feed on the bottom and not just sunbathe (although they are partial to a mixer or two), and that a baiting spoon is invaluable!

I think the Western has the potential to develop into a good doubles water in due course, and it certainly seems to be heading in that direction at the moment. I can honestly say it's been the most 'fun' fishing I've had and enjoyed in years, I just wish I had time to go more often.....

Hope you enjoyed the read, and that this Newsletter has given you some insight into how the Western is progressing as a fishery, good job I didn't go into detail or I would have put you all to sleep lol!.....all the best,

Steve