



## Western Reservoir Newsletter 2014



I've written this Newsletter to bring everyone up to date and provide additional background information about the **Western Reservoir Syndicate**, and how it has progressed during its second year of operation.

I've collated information from the Catch Reports that Members have sent to me, and have included a brief review of 2013 along with a write up of my own Western Exploits over the last year, which I hope will give you an 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

## 2013 Catch Reports

570 carp were reported in total, 488 of which were weighed, the table below shows the fish that were weighed.

2013	Captures		Smallest	Largest	Average	Doubles average	% < 5lb 8oz	% > 5lb 8oz < 9lb 15oz	% > 10lb	No. of Doubles
January	10		2lb 10oz	15lb 8oz	7lb 13oz	12lb 10oz	20	50	30	3
February	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	4		10lb 2oz	13lb 14oz	11lb 10oz	11lb 10oz	0	0	100	4
April	22		2lb	12lb 8oz	5lb 13oz	11lb 12oz	58.33	16.67	25	3
May	106		2lb	17lb 10oz	7lb 0.5oz	12lb 13oz	42.53	32.18	25.29	22
June	66		1lb 8oz	18lb 12oz	10lb 3.5oz	12lb 11oz	10.35	32.75	56.9	33
July	84		2lb 8oz	18lb 8oz	8lb 9oz	13lb 1.5oz	24.59	39.34	36.07	22
August	157		2lb	17lb 14oz	8lb 9oz	13lb 4.5oz	21.43	42.14	36.43	51
September	55		3lb 13oz	19lb 14oz	11lb	13lb 9.5oz	9.09	34.55	56.36	31
October	47		4lb	18lb 11oz	9lb 9.5oz	14lb 2.5oz	18.18	47.78	34.04	16
November	12		3lb	13lb 3oz	7lb 8oz	13lb 2.5oz	40	40	20	2
December	7		8lb 12oz	19lb 6oz	14lb 4.5oz	15lb 3oz	0	14.29	85.71	6
<b>Totals</b>	570									193
<b>Twelve</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Average</b>			9lb 4.5oz	11lb 12oz	22.23	31.79	45.98	

The statistics show the carp are continuing to make good weight gains across all year classes, the number of fish captured rose by over 73% (329 in 2012, 570 in 2013) and the number of doubles caught increased by over 56% (123 in 2012, 193 in 2013) which is evidence of the steady growth rates the fish are achieving.

For comparison purposes the table below shows captures of doubles in 2012 and 2013.

Size	2012 Doubles Caught	vs	2013 Doubles Caught	% Increase
10-13lb	77		102	32.47
13-15lb	22		42	90.91
15-19lb+	24		49	104.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>		<b>193</b>	

The number of doubles in the 10-13lb bracket increased as the 7-9lb carp grew and reached double figures for the first time, likewise the number of fish in 13-15lb and 15-19lb+ brackets captured also increased as last year's low doubles became mid doubles and upper doubles respectively.

The overall average weight of fish recorded dropped slightly from 9lb 15oz in 2012 to 9lb 4oz in 2013 mainly due to an increase in the numbers of carp caught, and in part due to the impact of successive spawning activities. The average weight of the doubles was lower falling from 13lb in 2012 to 11lb 12oz in 2013 simply due to increasing numbers of carp making double figures and becoming mid doubles for the first time!

One in four of the doubles captured were in the 15 – 19lb+ size bracket (average 16lb 11oz) compared to one in five in 2012(average 16lb 10oz), the majority of the larger fish caught in 2013 comprised of post spawning captures which accounts for their overall average size remaining static.

It became evident as the season progressed that the Members who were enjoying the most success on the Syndicate, consistently having multiple fish hits and catching the larger carp had got their baiting application sussed, most were using a mainly boilie only approach, or boilie and pellets and re-baiting regularly to keep and hold the fish in the areas they were fishing.

Larger 16-18mm baits produced the bigger fish, and it wasn't unusual for Members to get anywhere between 5-15 takes in a one or two night session while using 3-5 kg of boilies to keep the alarms singing and bait runners screeching during the warmer months.

At the beginning of July Steve found time to start producing a Kingfisher Lakes Special boilie (KFL's), which Members are able to purchase at a very reasonable rate. It's fair to comment that the bait has been well received and it certainly increased the catch rates of those Members using it, it has also caught carp from several different venues at home and abroad, suffice to say the lads are more than happy with the results they are achieving on it.

During 2014 the KFL's will be introduced regularly into the Western as part of a feeding programme to provide supplemental feed to the carp, encourage good growth, and benefit the fish the Syndicate and its Members in the long term.

I think it's reasonable to forecast that the carp will attain a similar growth rate in 2014 to what they have achieved during the last two years. A warm spring (here's hoping!) and steady summer should see the fish continuing to make steady progress during the coming months.

Members enjoyed some fantastic and memorable fishing in 2013, with many multiple captures and PB's being reported during the year, this looks likely to be a continuing theme in 2014, keep checking the Catch Reports on the website to find out how the carp and the fishing are progressing in the months ahead.



## **2013 Review**

The long cold spring we endured was officially the coldest in over 50 years with barely a leaf on the trees starting to bud or a blade of grass starting to grow until well into late May.

Unsurprisingly it took an age for the water temperatures to start rising and remain stable enough for the carp to start waking up, and it's fair to say catch reports from the Western were thin on the ground during the first few months of the year, and comprised mainly of the smaller fish ravenous after the long cold spell.

With the arrival of June though temperatures soared and the short spring like period that arrived in May gave way to full blown summer conditions, we were overdue a good summer and eventually we got a real cracker, although it kicked in after the slowest of possible starts.

The water level fell by approximately three feet during June due to a valve maintenance issue, and given the prolonged warm summer with lack of rainfall it took a good while for the reservoir to refill.

The lower water levels encouraged the fish to spawn several times during the warm weather, first attempt was in June then again on a couple of occasions in July, with the last spawning of the summer taking place in late August. Spawning as many times is somewhat unusual this far North, by comparison the carp spawned twice in 2012 in June & August.

The net result of all this spawning activity was that the majority of the larger carp caught across the summer were post spawning captures and were obviously a bit on the thin side and weighing in light after all their energetic endeavours.

It was however pleasing to see the fish starting to put the weight back on and looking in great condition as autumn arrived, a couple of examples being fish caught in late August at 16lb 8oz and 17lb 14oz being captured later in the year at 18lb 11oz and 19lb 14oz respectively.

Spawning activities aside fish from all year classes in the reservoir are continuing to grow well, the best of them attaining a further 2-3lb+ in growth during 2013.

Two examples of the many carp that are achieving good growth rates in the Western:



Stocked April 2012 @ 9lb



September 2013 @ 15lb



Stocked April 2012 @ 7lb

**Insert photo**

October 2013 12lb 8oz

## Western Reservoir Exploits 2013



Steve's best fish of 2013 16lb 6oz, a great scrap and a smile!

My own fishing at the Western has been very limited and consisted of a handful of 1.5-3 hour short visits, and two 10am – 7pm day sessions and one overnight trip.

Needless to say my short 1.5-3 hour visits were unsuccessful, I seemed to have the knack of setting up on showing fish that were on the move, giving it an hour or so with the rods out during which time the liners and activity gradually slowed down and stopped, the carp had gone and so had my time to fish for them.....

I fared better on my first day session although I was guilty of staying in one spot too long and blanked between 10am and 2pm, a change in wind direction during this time saw the carp heading to the opposite end of the reservoir, a walk around confirmed there were numbers of fish boshing out all over the place, a quick move followed which saw me land carp of 6lb 8oz, 11lb 2oz, 13lb 2oz and 13lb 8oz between 3.30pm and 6.30pm, then guess what?

It was time to go, and there were still loads showing in front of me agghhhh! I enjoyed the session though, but should have moved sooner!

My second day session in late November was spent trying to locate the carp. There were three other Members fishing that day and although a couple of fish were seen they were uncooperative, and the result was a blank for us all.

My only overnigher of the year on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October coincided with gale force NNW winds and scuppered my plan of attack I could cast the spod further than the rods! I fished on the south bank on the receiving end of the sturdy breeze watched the water with streaming eyes, moved twice recast the rods every hour or so and saw one fish show at range between 8am and 3pm. Meanwhile Mark and Dan on the opposite bank fishing a short day session in the (slightly) more sheltered house corner managed three takes between them.

Having only sighted one fish I made the decision to move to the north bank for the night as it didn't look like they were going to follow the wind this time. Mark and Dan's result had shown there were at least some carp on the back of the wind. Just as I was about to bring the last rod in which had been cast as far as I could towards the only show I'd seen all day I found myself attached to a welcome scrappy little 4lb mirror.

By mid-morning on the 10<sup>th</sup> I saw the occasional fish rolling in the surf half way out moving across the reservoir looking like they were en-route to the south bank. With nothing to show for my efforts I started baiting up regularly with 50-100 baits over each rod every 1.5-2 hours to try and provoke a response this eventually saw four more carp between 4lb 11oz and 5lb 13oz coming to the net during the day.

By late afternoon fish were showing within casting distance of the south bank, but with only a couple of hours left I hung on as long as I could hoping for the chance of a bigger last minute carp from the north bank. I kept the bait going in after each of the smaller carp and increased the amount I applied to 100-150 boilies over each rod. I was eventually rewarded with a 16lb 6oz last gasp mirror which gave a cracking account of its self, a real good scrap, and I suspect was me being rather lucky!

Thanks to Stephen W. who was having a walk around for taking the photo for me, Stephen told me there were loads of fish showing along the south bank on the end of the lessening but still strong NNW breeze. I knew they would end up following the wind, but it was too late for me to take advantage.....

One point of interest though the five smaller carp I caught were all from the October 2012 stocking of C2.5 fish which averaged 2lb 8oz each when stocked so they've more than doubled in size in a year which is very pleasing, I hope they do the same in 2014!



A pretty 5lb 5oz October mirror

Overall I'm very pleased with the progress the carp are making in the Western, the venue is continuing to develop into a good doubles water, the Members are enjoying their fishing, and the Syndicate continues to 'grow' from strength to strength much like the carp it contains!

Best fishes,

Steve