

## Back on the Carp trail

Having spent the summer in pursuit of Tench and Bream, Autumn is the time to be getting back on the carp trail.

From now through to November the Carp will be munching, putting on weight to see them through the winter. It's a great time to be on the bank and fishing for carp at their biggest weights.

I started my Autumn campaign this weekend, a little early perhaps but I wanted to start to get a feel for my new water. The more time you can spend on the bank now the less time you will need later on meaning you can maximise your chances when they do come along.



One thing that fishing for Tench during the summer does make you realise is how important rigs can be, you only have to watch some of the underwater footage that's available to realise how easily they can rid themselves of the hook and with that in mind ive been playing with a carp rig that id been thinking about for a while.

Most go for the easy option of a Chod rig when fishing over a "choddy" bottom. Ive never been a particular fan of this set up as ive found it to be

unreliable. The rig im using at the moment for “choddy” areas can be fished on a standard lead clip set up and leaves the hookbait sitting perfectly. The advantage being it can be cast almost anywhere and of course the lead can be dropped.

The rig is part chod rig, part soft braid. You will see the hook end is a standard Chod style stiff curved mono attached to a heavy sinking braid for which Avid’s pindown is perfect. I join the two lengths together using an Albright knot. A word of caution here, the Albright knot is designed for joining thick mono to thin braid, the two materials here are of similar thickness therefore to make sure nothing slips I blob the stiff mono at the knot before covering the knot with just enough tungsten putty to sink the pop up. It is critical to make this bait a wafter as it needs to settle down on top of whatever it is cast on top of.



The weekends session went well with several fish landed to low twenties. I started by finding as clear an area as I could before then spoding a mix of the two things carp love, Hemp and boilies. A couple of tins of Sonubaits Hemp and half a kilo of crushed Code Red boilies with a handful of 12mm whole boilies thrown in made up the mix. The rig is cast out with only the addition of a pva nugget to protect the hookpoint. The rig is hopefully going to settle where it lands with the bait sitting proud, the heavy sinking braid will follow the contours of the bottom giving the carp room to move away and get hooked

firmly. So far my hook holds have been tremendous and ive yet to drop a fish, un like conventional chods which I find result in a few loses.