

Jersey Freshwater Angling Association

Carp "Corner" 2010 Season

Grand Vaux

2010 was a developmental year for the Carp fishing fraternity with the opening of Grand Vaux. It gave carp anglers their first real chance to target their chosen species in true carp fishing style and it wasn't long after the 1st June that you could see bivvies and shelters lined up in the swims that Graham Carver and Tom Dixon had carefully selected and made ready during the previous Winter. Preparations began in November 2009 and several work parties later (thanks go to those who made the effort to be there and help) the banks and swims began to take shape.

Fish wise, a netting party was arranged at Les Mielles and approximately 20 Carp were caught, being a mix of Commons and Mirrors ranging from 6lb to the largest at 23lb. These were safely transported to Grand Vaux, weighed, photographed and released. It was a very interesting morning for those that attended, and although hard work it was extremely rewarding. It is not often you get the opportunity to be part of a project like this and I would encourage members to go along if another netting session is organised. I would add that fish safety was the priority at all times and no fish came to any harm.

The first few weeks of the season saw many carp caught as they were mostly naive with few having seen angler's rigs and baits before. It has since become harder with the pressure of many anglers putting in a lot of time having an effect on the fishing which is quite normal. However, the right approach continues to catch fish and there have been reports of some exceptional fishing for Jersey for those inclined to put the hours in. One fish in particular (the Mirror that came out of the Horseshoe at 23lb) was caught a number of times over the summer with Danny Wadsworth catching it at its largest at 26lb 12oz, a new Association record. Well done Danny! It was great to see that the fish had put on so much weight in a short period of time and if that continues then it will not be long before Jersey has its first 30lb Carp on the bank.

Jersey "Carp Classic"

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, the first competition in Jersey specifically for Carp was held. The Jersey "Carp Classic" as it became to be known was organised predominately by the aforementioned Danny Wadsworth and attracted 10 anglers to fish non-stop for 48 hours at Grand Vaux. As it was the first competition of its type in the Island there was some trepidation prior to the event but there was no need as it turned out to be a great success and a big thank you goes to Danny (and Tom Dixon and others who helped) for the effort they put in to make the event the hit it was. A total of five fish were caught and Tom Dixon was the eventual winner with a couple of last night fish to take the trophy and prizes from Paul Clarke with Andy Crawford in third.

Due to the success of the event we have diarised a repeat competition over the 2011 August Bank holiday weekend and details are available in the relevant leaflet. We are limited to 10 anglers due to the availability of swims at Grand Vaux however if the event becomes oversubscribed then it is possible that we will organise a qualifying competition or two in June or July. Details on how to enter will be sent out nearer the time. Let's hope that this becomes a regular feature in the Association calendar.

Best fishes.

Duncan de Gruchy