

PROOF THAT SILVERFISH LAKES BEAT CARP POOLS!

Anglers queue up at mixed venue

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A 'silverfish only' lake that critics claimed was doomed to failure has silenced the doubters by becoming the most popular bagging water at a top commercial complex.

Staffordshire's Cudmore Fisheries is home to a vast array of pools containing a huge head of hungry mirrors and commons, but it is the carp-free Milo Lake that has proved the most visited in recent weeks, every peg yielding 100lb-plus hauls of tench, bream, chub and barbel.

In the thick of the action is Dave Smith. The Bag 'em Baits ace has been emptying the water on a weekly basis and has concocted a number of deadly approaches to get the most out of each swim.

To find out more, AT met up with Dave on the in-form lake.

A variety of tactics have scored heavily in recent weeks, but with an island in front of him it made sense for Dave to reach for his rods.

"A simple Method feeder approach is deadly here. I want to catch the better barbel to 7lb and chub to 4lb so I'll use a small fluoro boilie to prevent small fish attacking the hookbait," he said.

A mixture of Bag 'em Krill Seeker groundbait and soaked 2mm micro pellets was moulded around the feeder before it was launched a few feet off the feature.

"I like to 'double skin' my Method feeder so that the hookbait is well buried. This involves moulding it as normal, then adding a little more groundbait to build a slightly bigger tower," advised Dave.

Liners and vicious indications rattled the tip from the off and it would only be a matter of time before the rod had a healthy bend in it.

In fact, it took less than five minutes before the first chunky barbel was placed in

the keepnet!

"Every peg is as prolific as this. If you have a feature, use a rod and line approach, or the pole if you have a good margin swim or lots of open water," said Dave, who was using 8lb mainline, a 4ins hooklink of the same strength and a size 16 Fox Series 2 hook.

Solid wrap-rounds occurred on virtually every drop, with not a single carp mixed amid the colourful array of species.

After an hour, sport began to flag but he had a cunning plan to reinvigorate his swim.

"I'm casting up against a very tight slope and I've started at the bottom of it. The fish have probably moved up it a little and it's time to cast slightly further."

The subtle change brought instant success, with the biggest fish of the day - a 5lb barbel - snaffling up the green boilie.

By chucking to slightly different positions and alternating the colour of his boilie after every couple of fish, Dave managed to land over 80lb of big silvers.

"It really is a unique water and it is getting better and better. If you want a memorable day's sport without a single carp in sight, this is definitely the place to be," concluded Dave.

Barbel and chub, but not a carp to be seen, as Dave shows his catch.



DOUBLE SKIN

1 Place your hookbait in the bottom of the Method mould. Dave uses a brightly coloured boilie.

2 Cover the hookbait with a mix of groundbait and soaked pellets in the normal way.

3 Firmly press the feeder into the mould containing the groundbait.

4 Turn the mould upside down and wriggle the Method feeder out of it to reveal a perfectly formed ball.

5 Now put another sprinkling of groundbait into the mould.

6 Repeat step 4 of the sequence. Fish will feed without becoming wary of the hookbait.

QUICK TRICK

When fishing the Method, vary the detail - hookbait colour and exactly where you cast into the swim can revive sport if it slows down.

Method feeder tactics with a fluoro boilie hookbait are spot-on for the fish in Milo.

WATCH THE VIDEO:
 GOFISHING.CO.UK

MORE DETAILS
 Milo Pool is fishable on an £8 day ticket. For more details visit www.cudmorefishery.com or call 01782 680919.