

Mistral Team Blogs

Duncan Warmeant Competition Carping

The start of 2014 saw the birth of my son and also due to work commitments saw me getting very little bank time, but time has flown by and before I knew it one of our first comps wasn't far away. This was our first time doing the southern carp cup for me and my fishing partner Glen, so after a lot of thought we decided to fish the famous sandhurst lake on the yateley complex. We had to be there at 8am to sign in so we decided on an early start was on the cards, By 6:30am we arrived at sandhurst and chatted to the other competitors and by 8am we had all signed in and we were eagerly awaiting the draw. Due to time the draw was not a watercraft draw, and being second to last on the list we knew we were going to be in for a tough time, and sure enough we got peg 7, gutted I think was an understatement but that's what we got so that was that.



The peg we got was right in the corner of the lake and due to the pegging layout we couldn't fish far out as we would be in another competitor's water. So after a bit of casting around with a lead and marker we had a level depth of water of around 4ft and some small pockets of weed. As we have never fished sandhurst before we thought we would hedge our bets and fish a few different methods. I decided to fish one bottom bait and a chod with a bright pink fluoro pop up right over the weedbed, and Glen decided on zigs.

By mid afternoon everyone was settled in and a few fish started showing in front of us but not in our water. By late afternoon the first fish of the match was landed and everyone waited to see what the weight was. By Friday night two fish had been landed, so we just stayed with what we were doing and settled in for the night. It was around 3am when my right hand rod burst into life and a fish was on, 10 mins later we had our first fish of the match. 22lb on the button, that fish put us straight into a qualifying 3rd place but knowing the stamp of fish in sandhurst anyone could knock us out with one fish.



And by mid day our fears became reality as fish were coming out all round the lake from the deep water, knocking us back into 4th place, so we decided to change tactics and bait an area. Saturday night came and went, and by Sunday we could only watch on as we were pushed into 6th place. By 10am the horn blew to mark the end of the match.

We stayed in 6th place, so unfortunately for us we didn't qualify this time but that's competition carping. We had a great weekend and met so many nice people. We will definitely be back for another go and hopefully a better peg next year.

Tight lines
Duncan