



GIGANTICA OPENS



An immaculate scaly mirror, part of Gigantica's stocking boost.

WE KNOW THE LAKE HOLDS AT LEAST ONE SEVENTY

I have fulfilled a lifelong dream by buying my own lake in the Champagne region of France, half-an-hour off the A26 motorway and just three-and-a-half hours from Calais (writes Korda boss Danny Fairbrass).

It was called Domaine St Christophe, but I have renamed the lake Gigantica in tribute to the huge fish already swimming in the lake.

Stocking records are sketchy – the previous owner reckons it holds 1000-plus carp. I'm more realistic, and

from my fishing sessions and from the catch reports since we've had control I estimate 300-600 in 35 acres of water. We know it produced 280 fish from the end of August to the end of October, including a 72lb lake record.

We know the lake contains at least one seventy, five sixties, 10 fifties and loads of forties, thirties and twenties. Many of the smaller fish are very scaly, which is unusual for France.

The one I am pictured holding is typical of this strain, which run from mid-twenties to over 40lb, making them a real prize. I can't wait to see a fully-scaled 50-pounder!

I have reduced the maximum number of anglers allowed on the lake at any one time from 26 under the old owner to just 12, giving everyone acres of room. This is a lake run for dedicated carp anglers, and profit takes second place to superb fishing.

I always hate it when people cast into my swim, which happens a lot on pressured waters. For this reason I have outlawed remote boats because they cause too many boundary disputes between anglers.

Over the winter all the swims at Gigantica have been re-developed to be flat and comfortable, the track around the lake has been re-laid, and new secluded car parks have been made to help retain the natural feel of the water.

The clubhouse has been gutted and the shower has been brought up to five-star hotel standards, along with two new toilets and a new kitchen, so we can offer a superb menu – which is, of course, optional.

Angling Lines (see page 47) is continuing to organise the bookings and ferries. We open on Saturday, April 4 and will run 12 months of the year with reduced prices for winter fishing. The lake is 18ft-23ft deep on average. There is no weed, nor are there crayfish or poissons chat catfish.

My full-time fishery manager Danny Turtle and I look forward to welcoming you to Gigantica. Meanwhile check out www.anglinglines.co.uk and www.gigantica-carp.com for more fish pictures and shots of the lake.



Here's Gigantica's lake-record 72lb mirror. The fishery has been aptly renamed by Danny.

● Don't miss next month's UKCarp, where we will be running a competition for two complete holiday packages to Gigantica.

And whether you plan to head to Danny's new water or any other foreign venue this year it is well worth checking out Korda's Complete Guide to Holiday Carp Fishing, which now comes in a book and DVD pack. Visit www.korda.co.uk for more information.



SECLUDED CAR PARKS HELP TO RETAIN THE NATURAL FEEL OF THE WATER

Stunners stocked at Bluebell

Northants day-ticket heaven Bluebell Lakes has recently boosted the stock of Mallard Lake with 250 stunning 4lb-8lb carp from Cobb House Fishery.

These young carp, along with 100 larger ones that are planned to be stocked later this year, will be a welcome addition to the existing population, which already consists of several hundred fish that run well into double figures.

Carp anglers who took advantage of the newest lake on the complex last year made some incredible hits, including several sessions when more than 20 carp were banked.

Bluebell Lakes fishery manager Dave Ostapiuk told UKCarp: "We want this lake to be different to the other specimen waters we have, so that all levels of anglers can come

down and get plenty of action from decent sized, quality carp." The fish stocked were a nice mixture of commons and scaly

mirrors that look set to thrive in the rich 20-acre water. For more information visit www.bluebell-lakes.co.uk



Owner Tony Bridgefoot and manager Dave Ostapiuk with two new arrivals.

Prologic 2009

Check out the extensive new range of Prologic tackle – the 2009 catalogue is ready to download. You can view all the products in detail and read a comprehensive description of them to help you make the right choice. This new catalogue is well worth studying. Visit www.prologicfishing.com



SBS Corn-Shaped Boilies

Here's a new bait to keep an eye out for – small bright yellow gems from SBS designed to imitate real sweetcorn. They look very similar to the real thing but you can use these safe in the knowledge that they will still be on your rig when you wind it in. They will avoid the attention of nuisance fish and won't come off on the cast.

Sniff the baits and you will notice a sweet, cheesy aroma to them. This comes from the addition of N-Butyric acid and other top-secret attractors included in the mix.

You can buy the baits as sinkers and pop-ups, which can be used for single hookbaits, as snowman set-ups or to

tip a normal bottom bait.

If you are using them as hookbaits only, there should easily be enough in a tub to last a whole season.

Price: £4.99 for the bottom baits and £6.99 for the poppers.



Net your free DVD

Bait and Particles Made Easy is a free DVD from Hinders Fishing Superstore that features Bryan Jarrett and Shaun Hodges.

The 80-minute footage shows you how to use the full Hinders range of bait and get excellent results doing so. It features quick and easy methods of using multi-mixes, liquids, pellets and particles.

The DVD will be sent out with Hinders' new 2009 catalogue (available mid-March) but it can also be obtained via the Hinders website. Anyone popping into the Swindon shop is welcome to pick one up.

Visit www.hinders.co.uk



Daiwa Carp catalogue

A new European carp catalogue has been produced by Daiwa to illustrate and describe all the carp products in the company's range.

It features all the new Daiwa gear for 2009 and gives a full breakdown of each item to help you understand the design qualities and the benefits to the user.

Visit www.daiwasports.co.uk



Your shout

OVER TO YOU, UKCARP READERS – THE FLOOR'S YOURS

This time of year really separates the men from the boys. I love it and don't look forward to all the fair weather anglers creeping back to the bank as soon as the sun comes out again! Steve Brookes, Luton

Snowman rigs in the snow really do work, at least for me. I caught a 16-pounder during a blizzard using a 14mm tutti-frutti bottom bait with a 10mm yellow pineapple on top. Iain Clarke, York

I think you should do more articles about catching big carp. I don't get very excited by the 'fish at any cost' attitude, or reading about catches of low doubles in winter. Pete Rance, Essex