

## 20 Hours on Beaurepaire by Rod Simpson & Iain Mac mi

We both caught big carp from Island Lake before moving closer to the ferry, to do an overnighter on another of Angling Lines' venues, known as Beaurepaire. This lake is completely different to the one we had just left, it is several acres in size and absolutely stuffed with carp that average 14-25lb, whereas Island Lake is classed as fairly difficult but with an average of well over 30lb and a lot of 40s.

**T**hey are two contrasting venues; Island Lake is suitable to the bigger fish enthusiast, whereas Beaurepaire is suited to those who aren't necessarily looking for the biggest carp, but who want to bag up, whilst also having the chance of a 30! Like many Angling Lines venues, it can be reserved exclusively for a group. My son would enjoy Beaurepaire as he likes a bend in the rod and gets bored quite easily - it is an out-and-out action water!

We are starting this piece after eight hours of fishing and already we have had nine takes, with the majority of the carp being hard-fighting mirrors in the 14-20lb bracket. That's not to say you will not catch bigger fish, as it does hold them; we managed to catch lots of carp, including a good-conditioned mirror of 26lb that fell to Iain's rods, in only 20 hours of fishing.

The drive will take approximately 1 hour 45 minutes with a toll charge of 18 euros. It is a very simple journey with only one main road to travel on, south on the

**Main pic: Angling Lines boast many lakes that cover all requirements, from big fish venues like Island Lake to easy runs waters like Beaurepaire. This good 40 was caught from Island Lake two days prior to moving to Beaurepaire.**





The sun comes out and I take the opportunity to capture the lake looking from the top end.



A26 to Junction 14 followed by a five-minute drive cross-country to the venue.

The lake itself is fairly open with scattered willows on a couple of banks; the topography is fairly uniform with only a few features, the main one being a gravel island in the central part close to a pronounced peninsula.

### Fish Stock

Actual carp numbers are unknown, but to say it is well stocked is an understatement. The majority of the fish are between 15-25lb but it does contain a number of carp above this weight, including some over 30lb. In addition to the many mirrors there are a few grass carp that were stocked at weights above 23lb. During an average week expect to catch a lot of fish with doubles and low-20s being the norm, however there is a chance of a 30lb+ fish once you have waded through the smaller, hard-fighting mirrors.

### Swims and Features

We chose to set up for the night on what appeared to us to be the most popular area of the lake. The swims are situated on a large spit. This area commands the whole lake, in fact there isn't a spot you couldn't cast a bait to

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The biggest fish of this short session fell to Iain's rods, a hard-fighting mirror of 26lb 2oz.

from here. However, the lake doesn't really have any marked swims apart from the spit. We feel this is a good thing, as you could basically set up camp anywhere. All the banks are very comfortable, with grass areas covering the whole circumference of the lake. If there are a few of you planning on booking the whole lake, the spit could be your base, this would leave the rest of the banks free for you to stalk for a

few hours or just wander around with a rod and a net, casting to showing fish.

The main feature on the lake is the island; there is a large shallow plateau to the right of the island, with a sharp decline in depth. The margins average around 3-4ft, this would certainly be an area to cover during the hours of darkness. The lake is horseshoe-shaped, the top end averaging 4ft in depth, to the right of the spit, whereas the larger



Accurate baiting with Mainline Response Pellets soon brought results.

area closest to the entrance averages 4-6ft. We caught fish from every area to which we presented a bait, so all that is needed here is normal watercraft.

### Facilities

On arrival you will notice a large cabin near to the fishery entrance that houses everything that is required during your stay. It is split into two rooms, one containing a table, chairs and bait freezer, the other room containing a clean shower and toilet. A fitted electric cooker that is clean and tidy lies against the opposite wall – a lot easier than cooking with the Coleman, I'm sure you'll agree.

Although baits are not available on site, Angling Lines' own range of baits can be ordered and will be waiting for you on arrival. This range includes cooked particles, pellets, or their range of boilies.

The local village has a couple of bar restaurants and tabacs (cigarette shops) and main supermarkets are only a several-minute drive. The village bakery has freshly-baked baguettes delivered on a daily basis and make a nice snack when coated in butter and dipped into a cup of hot soup. Although we didn't have time to visit the restaurant (where the key for the gate is collected) it is said to provide an excellent range of



Two runs at once, note the two rods bent and no assistance. Instead of giving me a hand, Iain is taking photos! Thanks, mate!



A November view across Beaurepaire. Two anglers fishing from the spit can command most of the lake.





**Above:** Not the biggest fish I have caught but they certainly have a good power to weight ratio.

**Right:** Iain with an evening 19.06 mirror. We ended up with so many takes in an overnight session that we lost count.

food and is well worth sampling.

## Approach

Our initial approach to Beaurepaire was a fairly cautious one to begin with. We had left Island Lake with the bait supplies very low by our standards, so this would have to be the basis for our starting point. Once we had plumbed around for a short while it was obvious that there were very few features on the lake other than the island mentioned earlier. This island was straight out in front of the peninsula and just to the right-hand side is a very carpy-looking drop-off, the depth goes from 12ins to around 4-5 ft. We had seen a few fish stick their heads up around this area so a small PVA bag of Mainline Response

Pellets went flying out to the spot. The tasty morsel on the Hair was a standard 14mm Maple-8 boilie. Iain then decided to introduce a few spods of bait to an area probably 20yds to the left of the drop-off, just in case any fish were hanging around in that area. We got the rods out in double-quick time, as you do, and on went the kettle (obviously Iain!). We sat back for a few minutes, with Rod then commenting that it may be a night water. Just as the sentence was finished, one of Iain's rods being fished on the bait flew off, making Iain think "So much for that theory." After a brief tussle over the back of the shelf a lovely high-double graced the landing net. Back out went the rod, then on with the task of finishing the coffee.

Iain topped up the spot with five

spods of Response Pellet but no sooner had he finished spodding than the rod at the base of the shelf was away. The only minor problem was coaxing the fish over the very shallow area in front of the island, however it did begin to respond eventually after some gentle persuasion from his X-Flite. Another high-double was quickly weighed and returned, then a quick change of the rig, attach another small bag of pellet, and back out to the spot.

The action continued every half hour on that rod, but eventually everything went quiet. We suspect it is just an area in which they were holding up for a while. Just for the record, the baited spot didn't produce another bite – strange really, the spot was only 20yds away and I'm sure these are hungry fish.



**Piping hot showers are a godsend, especially nice after a sleepless night of being covered in carp slime.**



**The English-style toilets and washbasins are of a high standard.**



**The first of many mirrors fought like Mike Tyson.**



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The business end consisted of Armaled and E.S.P products.



We both found bags to be the most effective method.



The spots were occasionally topped up with a couple of spoons of Mainline Essential Opal Pellets, Maple-8 and the Angling Lines Specials.

Right: Mainline baits – wouldn't leave home without them.

Ah well, we would have to see what action the night brought. Rod was in a similar predicament, takes were only coming to the one spot, so, as you do, he quickly cast another bait tight to the productive spot. The result, an instant fish on the bank!

Despite only being on the water for a few hours, and this being our first visit to the place, we have already worked out that these fish seem to prefer a small mouthful of food as opposed to a banquet. Maybe it's the time of year, or perhaps it's that the fish have been hammered on large beds of bait, but it's certainly worth taking on board for any French trip that less could mean more. It's all too easy to think "Fill it in; these fish are easy to catch; mug fish, etc., etc.," but as in England, it pays to be slightly different on occasions.

On the rig front, the only thing we changed were the hook sizes, Iain went down to a Size 8 E.S.P Big T or Longshanx and Rod to a Size 8 Mugga. Hooklinks remained the same as Island Lake, either Kik-Bak 25lb or 12lb fluorocarbon. Hookbaits, as already mentioned, were 14mm Maple-8.

We decided that the next day we would try some of the Mainline Hi-Vis Pop-Ups, just to see if we could pick up any of the bigger fish; as the saying goes, "You never know"!!!



Angling Lines bait can be ordered upon reservation and will be there waiting for you on arrival.





## Conclusion

If you are looking for a venue within easy access of the northern ports and where you will catch loads of carp, then it may be suited to you, but don't think you will catch 40s and 50s, because you won't, but there are 30s present. We cannot see any anglers struggling on this lake, as most will bag up with carp in the high-double and 20lb bracket. Don't be surprised to have several runs in quick succession and to be so tired that the rods are wound in at night for some well-earned rest. It's a heavily-stocked runs water where most methods will produce fish! Take plenty of bait as big hits are the norm.

Angling Lines is the largest provider of holiday venues in France and cater for all tastes, from small runs waters like this one to big fish venues, and they provide a very professional service that has stood the test of time. The detail within their reservation package is excellent with more information than required, including an A4 sheet of useful French phrases. The directions supplied were very accurate and, followed to a T, we found no need to dig out the French map.

Exclusive reservations through Angling Lines.

Telephone: 08712 004466  
Website: [www.anglinglines.com](http://www.anglinglines.com)



The information the angler receives upon reservation is an accurate professional package.

**Sunset in November!**  
The coming night was full of action, so much so that we didn't put all of the rods back out after a take.



Hard at work over the short session to get two articles ready and to Angling Publications before the deadline.