

Long range tip fishing

The relentless summer heat finally broke this weekend with a fantastic storm and winds of 30mph. I'd been gagging to get out for a day on the tip and the change in weather was just what I'd been waiting for.

The big gravel pits of Kent that I've grown up fishing lend themselves perfectly for tip fishing, the one I've been on this weekend is a 40 acre coastal pit is naturally stocked with a good amount of Bream Tench and Carp plus everything else you'd expect, one of those lakes where you just never know what the next bite might be.

Whilst the margins can be brilliant it's often the angler that can fish accurately at distance that catches the fish.

I picked a spot towards the end of the new wind, whilst the swim itself was protected by a bank of reeds on my right it gave me access to a big open area of water that I've fished before and caught well from. The bank of reeds gave me just enough calm water to be able to see bites well on the Quiver tip.

If you are going to spend the day on the tip it pays to get comfortable, I'm using a Deluxe accessory chair with everything I need to hand, rear rest attachment and groundbait bowl fixed to the chair. Tackle box underneath, all nice and organised, easy to do with Korum's range of compatible gear. I like to wear Polaroids to stop the glare off the water from staring at the Quiver tip all day.

To launch a feeder a long way you need the right tool for the job, in this instance I'm using the Korum 13ft 180g 3 piece feeder rod, there's several rods in the range with this the most powerful. The rod comes with three interchangeable Quiver tips, two glass in heavy and extra heavy and an extra extra heavy carbon tip. As a rule I'd use the carbon tip on a big river, the stiffness will show drop back bites as the feeder is lifted, for lake work the standard heavy glass tip is perfect and the one I'm using today with the extra heavy being used if there is a lot of undertow. I've coupled the rod with the biggest Neoteric, the 6000 size. I carry two spools for long range feeder work, one loaded with 12lb Korum feeder line, a lovely super smooth casting line with little stretch that sinks well. The other is loaded with Preston Absolute feeder braid in 0.10 to which I've added a leader of 12lb Korum xpert. My first choice would always be the braid for distance work, being super thin it casts line a dream and with no stretch I know I'll see every bite. The idea of the leader is to give me a little bit of stretch when I have a fish close in as this takes any lunges as well as giving me several yards of a heavy sinking line leading out to the feeder what with braids tendency to float. Some Fisheries ban braid, the feeder mono keeps me legal on those venues. 12lb might seem excessive, but keep in mind we're using a powerful rod and big feeders, anything less and you could risk having line breakages. I've a range of feeders including different sizes and weights in mesh and standard open end with some grub feeders and Avid 2oz distance leads. I carry the leads in case the wind get so strong that casting accuracy is lost with a feeder, a switch to a straight lead gets the distance and accuracy with ease. If it's tough fishing I'll use the grub feeders and double maggot hookbait, I'm not expecting it to come to that today though.

Rig wise I'm keeping it simple with a Camo running rig kit and 15 inch size 12 or 14 quickstop hooklink. The rig kit comes with an angled buffer bead which when combined with the long rig sleeve creates a boom that rarely tangles. I like to double up and twizzle the last 18 inches of line, it's a trick I learnt when match fishing. This finally 18 inches of line takes a lot of abuse, rubbing over

landing nets when netting fish, or similarly over the edge of groundbait bowls, it also taking a hammering from the feeder. So doubling it up gives it a bit more resilience, it's basically a giant overhand loop knot that I've twisted the line on.

I started by introducing 10 large feederfuls of groundbait plugged with dry stiki pellets and F1 corn, I like to carry the stiki pellet as I have the option of packing the feeder with just pellet if I use them stiki as intended. I pick a spot on the far margin to cast towards, distance wise I was around 65 yards, I didn't measure the distance but did add a pole elastic line marker and clipped up. Should I have to take the line out of the clip whilst playing a decent fish the marker let's me recast to the same spot before clipping up again. So a good chuck for a feeder in the strong wind. On natural lakes I like what might be considered a more traditional groundbait, in this case Sonubaits sweet smelling Superfeeder mixed 50/50 with brown crumb. After the initial 10 casts I changed to a medium feeder of 60g that'll make less disturbance, with a depth of 6ft I've chosen a mesh feeder that'll empty quickly. I just load this with groundbait and no pellets. The idea being that I've already put a bed of bait out there to get fish in the area and now I want the only sizeable food item to be my F1 corn hookbait.

For the first 30 minutes I recast every 5 minutes to get a bit more groundbait out there but whilst actually fishing. During this period I had a small carp of 3lb, I've not seen them that small in here before as this is a water I actually fish on occasions for big carp, so these will be spawned naturally in the lake. Once settled in to a routine and recasting every 15 minutes or after a fish bites started to come regularly with several Bream around 5 to 6lb plus a few more of those small carp. One thing I have had to do to keep bites coming is to mix up the corn hookbaits. At times a double corn bait stopped working but a change to a single piece of corn and bites resumed. I also tried taking the feeder off and replacing it with a bomb, to keep a little bit of attractiveness I added a plug of stiki pellet to the hooklink, it's a lovely little trick to sneak a few more bites. By tweaking and switching I've managed to keep bites coming. All in all a lovely day and so nice to be out fishing again without that oppressive heat. So to sum up, if you're struggling to catch on your normal feeder line, try gearing up and going the distance. I can in normal conditions fish at 80 yards plus with this set up and I'm sure with a bit of practice you'll soon be putting a feeder that distance too.