

ISSUE 09  
24TH MAY 2020



# Cyprynews



# News from the Chairman

Derek Stritton



Dear Member,

Just a note to bring you up to date with a number of Carp Society matters.

Our lakes at Horseshoe, Farriers and Little Farriers are now open again with anglers sensibly following social distancing and safety rules. Quite a few are catching a few fish as well! In the light of the fact many members will be wanting to be out fishing and probably not reading so much we have decided to suspend the weekly Cyprynews columns sent out during lockdown, for a few weeks at least.

We are already holding some excellent contributions from Brian Skoyles, Rob Hughes, Andrew Ellis and Paul Selman for when we start again. And, should you feel able to make a contribution for the future this should be forwarded to: [sales@thecarpsociety.com](mailto:sales@thecarpsociety.com) Plans are also on course for a revised Carp Fisher Magazine later in the year and we are beginning to collect articles for this as well.

We have now contacted our Horseshoe season permit holders and Farriers syndicate members outlining our plans to recompense them for lost fishing time, and although Little Farriers is well booked I believe dates are still available for 2020 again: [sales@thecarpsociety.com](mailto:sales@thecarpsociety.com) to check dates and make a booking, before someone beats you to it!

We are still uncertain about the availability of our Horseshoe open weekend and the Winter Conference because of issues around large gatherings and the effect Covid19 has had on the Tackle Trade, but we will keep you informed and if need be we are prepared to organise an event later in the year at Horseshoe if this becomes permissible.

Two new books are now at the printers. 'Redmire Remembered' probably the definitive history of the pool with the Redmire Log and chapters and material never seen before. Edited by Mike Starkey and John Carver, a list of significant contributors, proof read by Tim Paisley and design work by Mike Starkey. This one is almost sold out already! 'The Road to Orchid Lakes' by Marsh Pratley and friends, edited by Tim Paisley, with a significant list of contributors and again designed for us by Mike Starkey. Not only is this a lovely read from Marsh, it will also provide much information for anyone wishing to fish Orchid in the future. Lots of pre-orders already taken, contact the office on the e-mail already provided to pre order your copy. Can I just take time here to thank everyone involved in helping make both these projects come together during such a difficult period!

Horseshoe recently hosted a visit from the new Angling Trust CEO Jaimie Cook and the Trust Campaigns manager Martin Salter, and while at the lake they took time to

record an interview with Miles for Carp Radio, and land some lovely tench as well! One to listen out for! I guess with the current weather it won't be too long before the lakes close again, this time for spawning and for the fish to have time to recover. Despite the significant financial loss to the Society as a result of the Covid19 shutdown, we intend to retain the permit holders only at Horseshoe rule for as long as this is financially viable. Announcements about the re-introduction of day tickets will be made via our FB page and web-site when we feel comfortable about doing this. We are also still on the lookout for new waters which may be available to lease, or purchase, for our members, so please keep us informed if you hear of any that may have become available. Our fish rearing programme based on Horseshoe and Farriers strain carp, and the investments made over the past 3 years in stock ponds etc is now really coming to fruition. Not only do we have some fine stock for our current and any future fisheries, we should be in a position to supply fish for sale this coming winter. Anyone wishing to enquire about this should contact Miles Carter our fisheries manager on: miles1@thecarpsociety.com

Just in case you've missed the Anglers Charity Auctions posts on FB, the Society will be hosting a huge fund raising event for NHS and essential workers at Horseshoe Lake in 2021, which also happens to be our 40th anniversary! Get that in your diary right now!

Well, that's about it for now, personally I should be in the middle of a 3 week fishing trip in France at the moment, sitting in the sun fishing. Instead I'm sitting typing this! Stay safe everyone and enjoy your fishing when you get the chance!

Derek Stritton  
On behalf of the Carp Society

# The Beauty of Books and Cane

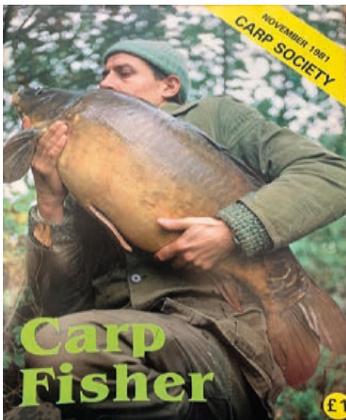
## 'One Man One Rod' by David Petty

Compiled and published by David Watson and reviewed by Tim Paisley



Tim Paisley with with a Redmirre Common

My introduction to the beauty of publishing was in Dave Watson's living room in Ascot in the autumn of 1981. I was secretary of the newly-formed Carp Society, and because



Carp Fisher 1 Cover

I was considered 'a writer' on the back of a handful of published articles I was appointed editor-to-be of the new Society magazine, Carp Fisher. Via an introduction by Mike Wilson, who appeared quite stunningly on the cover of Carp Fisher 1, Dave, who already had a track record with carp publications via a BCSG involvement, was recruited to handle the Society's publications. That introduction to an embryo magazine at layout stage was to have a far-reaching impact on both the quality of carp and angling publications, and my life! The magazine itself was hugely influential in angling magazine circles, and I have been involved with the creation of magazines and books ever since.

So while I can't claim to know a great deal about antique tackle, I can claim to have an addictive streak, to be a lover of beauty, a book creator, and collector. One glance at the two publications Dave has sent me for review spell out addiction, beauty, and extreme photographic and publishing expertise. You really have to be an antique tackle aficionada, and move in rarefied angling circles, to successfully undertake a book on Antique Fishing Priests, and a detailed, beautifully photographed book detailing the amazing cane rod collection of David Petty, One Man One Rod. In fact the latter title is something of a misnomer because this is a case of 'one man and a great many rods'. It is actually a reference guide to the 175 coarse fishing cane-rod collection David Petty has put together over a fifty-year period, arguably (indisputably?) the best split-cane coarse fishing rod collection ever assembled.

For those us who were unaware that there were so many quality cane rods in existence the collection includes examples by Allcocks, Hardy, Ogden Smith, Oliver's, B. James, Chapman, Milward, Creeke, Gold, Sowerbutts, Antis, Barder and Sealey. The collection includes a very rare Avocet by Sowerbutts, and three cane rods by Rodrill, better known for their glass-fibre and carbon. To quote David Petty, 'When people look at the book they will start to appreciate what jewels these rods really are.'



David Petty (left) and Edward Barder talking shop.



Edward demonstrating the art of straightening cane.

It goes without saying that David Watson has come a long way since his involvement with the Carp Society publications in the early 1980s, his list of more recent publication-successes including Best Visual Production of the Year Award in the annual 2020 Best Books of the Year competition from Keith Elliott's Classic Angling magazine. The photographs for *One Man One Rod* are by David (Watson), who has photographed the rods to show a full view of the maker's logos, name and address panels, as well as the individual sections and features of interest. This compelling book includes a Foreword – and section on cane buying – by master rod maker Edward Bader, and, as an appendix, the B. James leaflet 'Bird Name Rods'. The book is a treasure trove, described by Dave Watson as being the result of a six-month labour of love. The love of both Davids for the collecting of rods, and the recording of them, shines from

every page.

Now while I can claim to know a little bit about photography, and have forty years experience of compiling and publishing magazines and books, I am less well versed in the world of cane rods: but I do have friends whom I look on as being well-qualified to comment on the quality of David Healey's collection, and Dave Watson's cataloguing of it. Jim Fielding and Chris Ball have had a relationship with cane rods, and other items of antique fishing tackle, for as long as I have been writing, so I asked them to comment on the book from a cane-rod collectors' viewpoint. They have this to say:



The stunning David Petty book, photographed and produced by Dave Watson.

'Every so often a mind-blowing study of vintage tackle is published. In 1998 John Drewett's a stunning book 'Hardy Brothers The Masters The Men and Their Reels' was published – illustrated by Dave Watson's photography – and eagerly purchased by the hordes of would-be antique-tackle aficionados like myself. This revealing book became my favourite read. Well – it's just been eclipsed by this latest lovely publication.



The book is illustrated by in excess of 184 pages of A4 highest quality photography showing this kind of detail from David Petty's impressive cane rod collection.

Between 1990 and 2014 I avidly collected vintage fishing tackle. You quickly learn (in my case slowly) that knowledge is power, and a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. The most serious and knowledgeable collectors are often reticent, so building a collection of vintage rods and reels is frequently fraught with danger, and pitfalls. Dave Petty's knowledge of collecting is, in my view, genuinely unparalleled, as I'll explain.



Vintage tackle aficionado Jim Fielding assessing a Chapmans' Hollow Built Fred J Taylor Roach Rod from his collection.

The charismatic Roger Still, a celebrated collector of vintage tackle over the last forty years, and a good friend of mine, has an immense collection of split cane. Over the years I recall many conversations. One in particular involved the costly purchase of a Silver reel. Roger had knowledge to burn, but he was not 100% at ease with his 'find' and needed a little reassurance. There was only one option: 'phone a friend'. It speaks volumes when I

tell you that the friend in question with sufficient vintage tackle expertise was Dave Petty! Jim Fielding.

'In my view a book such as this has been a long time coming, though I can think of other far less exhaustive written works concerning cane rods published here in the UK: indeed I have written various pieces myself over the years. For years I have collected split cane carp and Avon rods, some having famous previous owners. These were acquired long before the huge upsurge in the interest of collecting and using split cane came about, brought on in part by Chris Yates and the exclusive use of cane for his fishing.



**Chris Yates, an enduring champion and user of cane rods. Chris caught his record carp from Redmire on a cane rod built by Richard Walker (not pictured).**



**Cane rod designer, collector and user Chris Ball inspecting one of Jack Hilton's rods (not cane!) in Chris's carp den (and museum).**

When the carp bug really hit me as a teenager at the start of the 1960s I upgraded to a 'proper' carp rod, a 10ft Modern Arms Rod Company Elasticane Standard Carp model. Some 35-years after that I was delighted to help design, in conjunction with Sharpes' 'Scottie' rods, the Chris Ball 'Allrounder' 11ft split cane carp rod. I still use this rod today. So cane is in my blood. The look, feel, workmanship and sheer beauty of some cane rods is part of their appeal and these days there is a growing army of cane disciples both in collecting terms, and usage.

In terms of top-notch production and superb photography this unique book easily sets it apart from all others, and I'm sure the likes of Jim Bruce, Bob Southwell, Ted Oliver and a host of other famous makers would wholeheartedly approve of this outstanding book.'Chris Ball.

My thanks to Jim Fielding and Chris Ball for their input into the review.

There is a tendency to think of cane-rod users and collectors as an eccentric minority living in the dark ages. In fact the world is

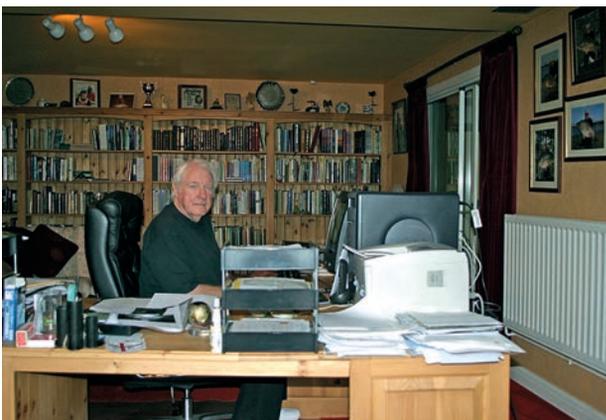
full of such people, and they are addicted not just to angling, but to cane as well.

As Chris Ball comments, a book of this scope is long overdue, but no one could have foreseen the quality it would aspire to when it finally arrived.

We have David Petty and Dave Watson to thank for making this glorious insight into the world of cane and Avon rods available to us all.



**Chris's own invaluable and impressive collection of cane and Avon rods is a striking feature of his carp den.**



**Reviewer, writer and publisher Tim Paisley with part of his 2,000+ book collection in the background.**

**Availability:**

All editions are available and maybe ordered online or by telephone..

**Editions:****Standard**

The first 200 collectors' copies carry a numbered, signed bookplate, and a further 300 copies, a signed bookplate. Printed paper over board case-bound, with bespoke printed marbled endpapers and complimentary Ivory-tipped 'London quill' float illustrated bookmark:

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