



ROUND
FOUR



CRICKET FISHING

IT'S THE NEW CARP MATCH THEY ALL WANT TO WIN.
TWO WELL-KNOWN ANGLERS, THREE RODS, WHO'LL LOSE THEIRS FIRST?



HOW IT WORKS

In essence, Cricket Fishing is a match between two well-known anglers, each trying to catch more than the other to hopefully wipe out their competitors rods. You see, each competitor starts fishing with three rods (for today's match, due to fishery rules, they'll be using two rods and have an imaginary third rod) and the name of the game is to catch three fish on the bounce to knockout their competitor.

For example, if Richard Adams (Team Mistral) catches one, Raimon Hartley (Team Cotswold Bait Creations) will have to reel in one of his rods. If Richard then catches another, Raimon would be down to fishing just one rod. But, should Raimon catch the next fish before Richard, he will get one of his rods back.

Each match also has a time limit should the fishing be a bit tricky and the winner in this instance will be the angler who's caught the most fish up to that point. Right, let's play some cricket!

GAME CARD

TEAM MISTRAL
VS.
TEAM COTSWOLD BAIT CREATIONS

THE VENUE

We have chosen the notoriously epic and rod-bending Thorpe Lea Fishery for this month's installment of Cricket Fishing. Neither Richard nor Raimon have fished here before (no unfair advantages then) and with so many fish it's surely the perfect Cricket Fishing ground! Fancy fishing here? Then head to www.thorpeleafishery.co.uk

TEAM CARD

TEAM MISTRAL
RICHARD 'FAT BLOKE' ADAMS



TEAM CARD

TEAM COTSWOLD BAIT CREATIONS
RAIMON HARTLEY



1



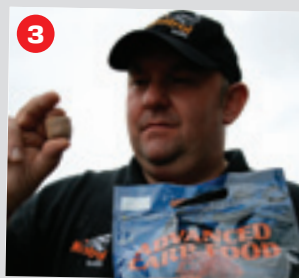
We've had The Beach Swim reserved for this match, as it's a big double swim with access to lots of open water. Raimon wins the toss and opts to fish the right-hand side of the swim. With the guys both ready, the first rods go out.

2



Raimon has gone for the solid bag approach. "It's perfect for fishing for one bite at a time," he states and decides to fish one long and one at short range that way he's covering all bases.

3



Rich is using the Mistral Advanced Carp Food ready-to-use Spod & Stick mix in his PVA bags which will both cloud the water slightly and give out masses of attraction – even from that tiny little bag he's holding.

4



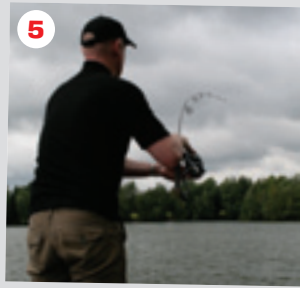
And here's his approach in action: a small PVA bag filled with the Stick mix and a bright Snowman type hookbait set-up.

TOP TIP



Raimon's fishing dead slack lines with his bobbins just off the ground. This should allow his lines to sit closer to the lakebed, as well as showing better indications of line bites and fish presence in the swim.

5



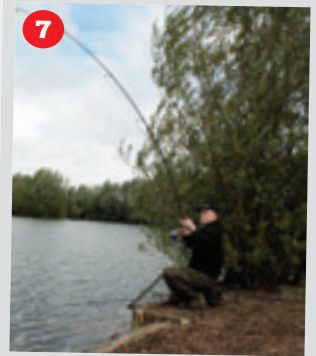
The first bite of the match goes to Raimon! The short-range rod rips off but after just a minute of playing the fish, it drops off. As you can imagine, Raimon is gutted but Rich is over the moon!

6



A fresh rig and bag is cast back out but the PVA barely has time to melt and the line pulls up tight indicating another take for Raimon.

7



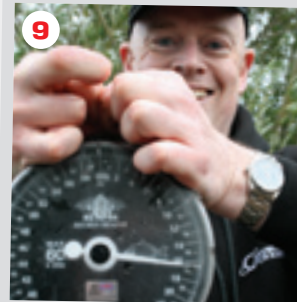
He plays this one extra carefully, praying it doesn't drop off, but these Thorpe Lea carp don't half scrap.

8



There's a big sigh of relief as it makes it over the net cord! It's a stunning linear for Raimon and he's in the lead.

9



Although the weight of the fish doesn't have any outcome on the overall result, Raimon still quickly weighs the carp and at just over 16lb he's well chuffed.

10



This means that Richard loses a life and has to reel in his imaginary 3rd rod (Thorpe Lea only allows two rods). Chin up mate, you still have two lives left!

11



As Raimon was about to reel in the other rod for a re-chuck, the rod is nearly ripped out of his hand and amazingly he's in again! As you can see, Rich isn't overly happy!

13



This means Richard is ordered to reel in one of his two rods... he's not a happy boy!

14



Rich has other ideas though to get his own back! Whilst Raimon's back is turned as he re-does one of his rods, Rich thinks about taking a pair of scissors to his main line!

12



Raimon lands another fish, this time a bigger mirror of just over 17lb. What a result for Raimon and Team Cotswold Bait Creations and what a venue Thorpe Lea is: two good mid-doubles in twenty minutes fishing.

TOP TIP

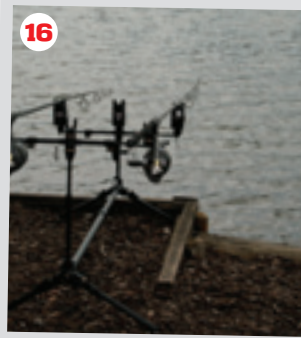


On heavily-stocked venues like Thorpe Lea, it's recommended to have a recast quite regularly and also to tip your hookbait to make it stand out from the free offerings. Raimon's been having success on 10mm yellow Technipops.



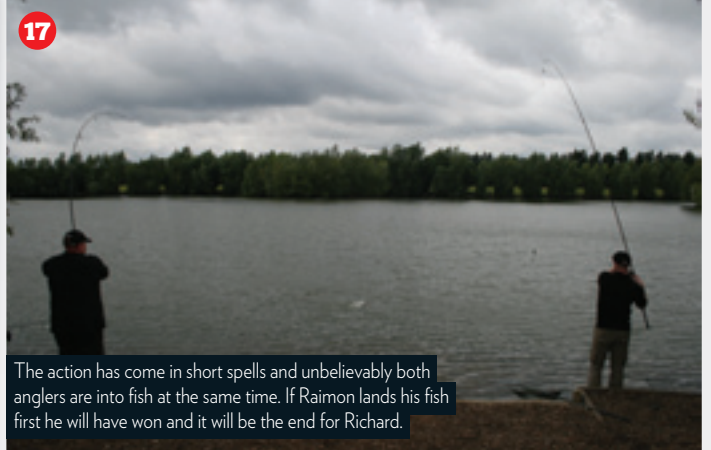
15

After a quiet spell for a few hours, lunch is interrupted as Raimon has yet another take and leans into his third fish of the match. If he lands this, it could be all over for Rich.



16

Just as it looks like it will be the end of Mr Richard 'Fat Bloke' Adams, he gets a ripping take! What a match this was turning into



17

The action has come in short spells and unbelievably both anglers are into fish at the same time. If Raimon lands his first he will have won and it will be the end for Richard.

HOW TO... MAKE CHILLI SOLID BAGS



1

Raimon uses small 10mm bright baits for his solid bags and finds these perfect for balancing a size 10 hook.



2

A simple curve shank hook, short length of braid and in-line lead is the style Raimon favours for this set-up.



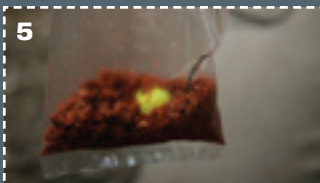
3

To start making up this bag, first Raimon opens the bag up (blow air into it) and in goes the rig and lead set-up.



4

With the hook nicked into the corner of the bag so it can't move, he then adds Cotswold Baits Chilli Stick Mix.



5

To start, as you can see, he only adds enough to cover the hook point and hookbait. You want to add the mix slowly.



6

Next in is the lead and the rest of the rig, along with more Chilli Stick Mix so the PVA bag is now half full.



7

The bag is then compacted down and the top section is licked and then rolled to tie it up and secure the contents.



8

The top of the PVA bag should now be sealed like this. As you can see, there's no PVA tape or string here.



9

The corners on the bottom of the bag are then stuck down with a damp finger to make it more aerodynamic.



10

The finished bag is small, neat and can be cast a long way. It's a perfect mouthful for a hungry day ticket carp.

TOP TIP

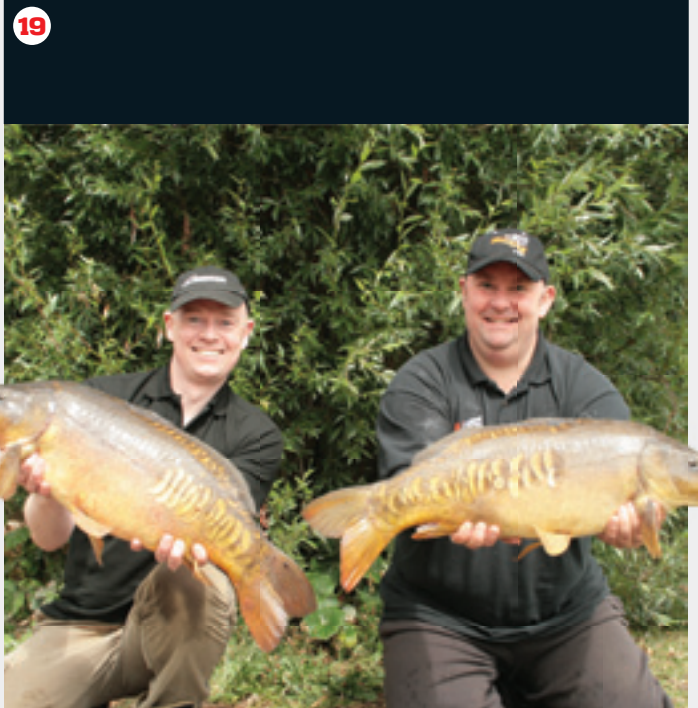


Richard's top tip is to glug your PVA Stick and hookbait before casting it out. This boosts the attraction of the PVA bag making it easier for the carp to find it, as it's detected by their sense of smell through the 'Nares' – the equivalent of our nose but super sensitive!



18

Like a cat with nine lives, Richard ignores the pressure and hastily gets his fish into the net first. He gets a life back and can effectively start fishing with two rods again.



19

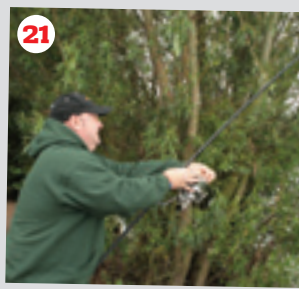
It doesn't last long and seconds later Raimon gets his third fish in the net. Before he can get the rods back out, Richard is once again back to one rod!

20



Just an hour until the finish and Raimon is getting impatient. It's a friendly match but the tension is definitely present and the guys want more bites.

21



Then, out of the blue, Richard gets a quick take and quickly loosens the clutch to let the fish take line. This could be the opportunity he needs to dust off his second rod and get it back out there.

22



Then disaster. Richard gets a hook pull right at the net. His face says it all and nothing changes on the score front.

TOP TIP



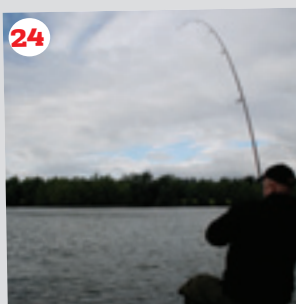
Rich gives us another quick top tip whilst re-baiting. "When PVA bag fishing, always have spare mesh bags tied up ready-to-go. On a hectic runs water like Thorpe Lea, the speed in getting the rods back out really can help you capitalise on the short spells of activity.

23



With half-an-hour to go, Raimon's right-hand rod is well and truly away as he makes his way over to lift into yet another Thorpe Lea carp. Is this the end for Rich?

24



Raimon keeps the rod up high and gently plays the fish in, back winding when he needs to. This helps soften the pressure and makes the eventuality of a hook pull less likely.

25



It makes it into the net first time and after a string of bad luck and a very tense last few hours, Raimon finally bowls out Richard's last remaining rod which he has survived on almost all day!

27



Cotswold Bait Creations are eventually crowned the winners of this month's Maximum Carp Cricket Fishing match. Well done, Raimon Hartley!

26



Smiles all-round, Richard shakes Raimon's hand; there were no hard feelings and both of the lads were great sports. Thorpe Lea defiantly didn't fail to disappoint as an action-packed venue!