

Bossard France Pilgrimage Week - June 26th - July 3rd 2010

Posted by pblake80 at 12:00 am, July 3rd 2010.

**Memo: There are some references that unique to Lake Bossard - if you have been there you will understand - if not give it TRY!!!!**

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Good drive down apart from being bumped onto the 0650 instead on the 0620 Eurotunnel train. That however did give me the chance to put some air in to the Rear Tyres - something I neglected to do in my rush the previous day whilst I waited (handy having a mini 12V compressor on board).

On arrival at the stoke of Noon (Bang on time) greeted by Sandy and Mark who was standing in for Steve who was taking a Busman's Holiday in Mirrorpool near Limoges, but would return bite less later in the day.

Devon Paul I and Fiancée Tracy were already there and we were awaiting two more Parties - so at 1245 we picked our Swims - Devon Paul had Boathouse and I took old faithful - The Lodge swim. 3 Lads Alfie, Dan & Levis (Baba) from Rochford were the next to show at 1pm then Neil & Andy from Liverpool arrived a few minutes later. They chose 61, Banzal and Middle Two respectively.

All bivvied up and cast made o the favourite swims then time for Dinner then bed.

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Baba - landing a 2lb Roach on 18mm Boilies was the only action of the Day as the temperatures soared into the Mid 30's - I took an afternoon stroll and found that the carp have all taken a Branch each for shade on the road bank - I have never seen so many big Carp in one place before and they didn't even spook as I walked within two feet of them - Reminds me of the Queen song - "Lazing on a Sunday Afternoon"

Oh and I rushed to pull in a 12Lb Mirror from the Stock Pond as the unofficial return Match between Steve and I had already started even though we were 'fishing' with one rod between us. More of a laugh really as I nipped in before him! The serious stuff will be later in the week

## Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Another Hot day (33C) in prospect with no Overnight action, but there was hope as with out any fuss I discovered that Devon Paul had a Fish in the Unhooking Hat - Big Grassie by my 1<sup>st</sup> sight - On closer Inspection it was and tipped the scales at 34lb and his 1<sup>st</sup> Grassie as well - That Nice or What - I took some photos of this beautiful creature as Devon Paul wrestled with it, Why do they always fight more close in or out of the Water?

That was a false dawn as nothing much happened apart from a couple of small Sonic Booms as the French Air Force resumed their weekday Training.

Fred (from Holland) who I fished with here in May 2009 had also joined us today until Thursday and took Position on R2 and undertook to show us how to catch fish - No pressure then Fred,

Devon Paul kindly gave me permission to fish in the river Bed up past the New Island/ Tree Stump Snag, for which I thanked him and of course if I could cast that far.

Well after yet another wonderful dinner I which rules for the 'Return Match' on Thursday in the stock pond were sort of formulated, I set up the rods for the night and did manage to 20 yards of so past the new Island and into the River Bed, Firing around  $\frac{1}{2}$  Kilo of bait around the spot I was set for the night.

## Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Slept through most of the night for the 1<sup>st</sup> time - awoke by a single bleep at 0545 hrs that I did get out for this time but nor further movement. The Dawn Chorus was well underway now but I did return to my slumber for 20 minutes or so when I was awoken to a real run on Number 1 Rod the one up the River bed where Devon Paul had given me 'permission' to fish the night before. The Fish kited away toward the Island and a fare rate of knots then the line went slack, fearing the worst I reeled like mad and thankfully made firm contact again. She had changed course and was heading for Devon Paul's Swim and the snags

therein - I 'bullied' her out fearing a chorus of Devon Paul's alarms would be the next thing I heard, but thankfully not - so her next dash was for the Tree stump & Mini island snag and I managed to turn her before she got there, The Quick but fierce battle was nearly one and Sandy came to see what all the commotion was - My response was only a baby but a Mirror which could be a PB. Safely in the landing net Steve arrived to help coach on the best handling and photography positions etc and as always welcome support and guidance for us part time Carpers.

She tipped the scales at 25lb 4ozs - Yes a new PB Mirror Carp, Steve treated some spawning damage and she was gracefully return to fight another day.

Time for a cup of tea and as we supped that down and compared the ACE Hard case Vs. Delkin bite alarms, Devon Paul who had come down to witness my catch had a couple of bleeps on his Alarm - and went off to investigate as Steve & I carried on with the discussion. A few minutes later Devon Paul shouted for some assistance - had a fish on after all - Yes he did a 1/2Lb Roach on a 18mm Boilies top off with a 10mm Pop UP !!!

After breakfast I 'walked the dog' round the lake - No Dog but keeping in practice. Today looks like it could be better as the breeze is up putting a nice ripple on the lake and there is some hazy cloud cover and the temp and the top of the 20's

Did I say it was going to be a better day. Baited up the two road bank swims, dropped my bait into the dead tree swim, then cast to the white leaf tree to the right of the Three Amigo's - lost sight of the rig only to see it land perfectly in the gap - perfect if was not for the fact the line had looped over the top of the tree and cracked off.

Made up another set up with help from Devon Paul who gave me some heavy tubing as I could not thread any more than one foot of my new Gardner Sinking Tube - I did not bring anymore tungsten tube as I did not have time to get some before leaving. I tried my best to get the swim but have lost all confidence so switch to the bar  $\frac{1}{2}$  way this Morning and the Road bank (figuring all fish so far have come from open water).

Time to visit the tackle shop for some more bait when Steve & Sandy return from the shops.

Another smashing Dinner, a few Beers and a Glass of Wine it time to bait the swims and get the rods out for the night. Devon Paul had a 32lb Mirror and midnight and that was the only fish of the night which again did not see the temperature drop below 20C.

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The days are now taking a familiar Routine - , Reel in, Steve's Hearty full English breakfast over a topic of conversation as to the Tactics being used, the weather etc. Then 'I would walk the dog', rebait and re spot the rods and sit wait, go to sleep, read  $\frac{1}{2}$  a book , go to sleep, play with Mia, - oh I haven't mentioned Mia yet have I. Steve & Sandy have a new French hound dog 12 weeks old and very intelligent. I of course had already made good friends and many times during the day she would come for a cuddle on my Lap. Now today however my walking the dog actually meant that as Steve & Sandy entrusted her to me as they went to Town for more supplies. A few murmurs of crying but she settled on my lap in the shade and we both went to sleep for what appeared to be  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour or so, it could have been longer.

On return Steve had decided that the tactics tonight was that everyone was going to be tight in the trees to try and winkle some of Carp out of there and he would boat them all the baits out with 2.5 Kg of Bossard Spod that he had made up in the afternoon for each rod. . After dinner Steve started with me the and with the "Jet Ski" bait boat to a point off under the dead tress on a spot he had been baiting for me for the past couple of days. As he could not get under there with the inflatable boat

He worked his way round everyone with the inflatable boat and completed just before dusk and made off for R1, next to Fred on R2. Within 10 Minutes of pacing bait he had a fish on the bank much to Fred's astonishment. At the Same Time 'Baba' who had moved form Middle Two to RB's had a fish on snagged within 10 minutes of the bait being placed there by Steve. He did manage to recast to the Spot and later in the Night he had a 24lb Common from it - A PB.

I sat on my rods as three centre rod under to the trees was set tight up like 'Piano Wire' until 0100 hrs but the constant buzz and biting by insects, the dew making me cold and wet I decided to head for the warmth of the sleeping bag and bivvy, and it was 20 C folks - I'm getting old !!! Prior to that I did have a small Drop back on No1 over the bar,

lifted into it and nothing there and decided to leave it where it then settled as I was confident I was still on the Bar.

I had a one bleep on No2 the Piano line but on closer inspection no other movement so left it. At 0310 hrs another single bleep on No2 but this time there was some movement - A fish was on and luckily had moved straight out into open water - I lifted in it defiantly was a fish but at this point could not determine its size as there was no fight - perhaps this is what a big one feels like I thought to myself but closer inspection of the bend in the curve led me to believe that this was more like in the Mid Twenties. As I drew in closer more of fight developed which confirmed my thoughts of a twenty + - Then having placed a headlight on my bonce, I glimpse my Quarry - A Mirror of the size I thought. Safely in the net - my 1<sup>st</sup> reaction was as I saw an ulcer on its Flank that it is the same one I caught on Tuesday, but when I looked at the other side I could see that it was not as this one did not have a mark on its tail.

I was going to slip her straight back but thought might want to know the weight. I am glad I did as she hit dead on 26lb. a second PB with the 2<sup>nd</sup> fish eclipsing the Tuesday fish by 12 ounces.

Recast to somewhere near the tress and back to bed.

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010**

Breakfast was a little more livelier on talk of Babas' and Steve's Exploits - Did I mention Steve had another 33-35Lb Common and could have had more but he had run out of my hook baits I had given him the night before.

Strategy for the Night coming was agreed as same under the tress with No particle just Boilies with some fishing Zigs 8" below the surface.

'Walked the dog' set up baited and reset the rods, and even cast to a crashing Mirror on the Bar, made up a couple of rigs for tonight updated the blog, had a beer inspected the Stock pond - Fish are on the feed in the middle, its getting close to match Time and choosing my peg. Its 1100 hrs and it is already 30c and wind & cloud less - Another hot one boys. Steve thought it would be a good idea to Wash the Quad as that involved using water of the cold variety.

Ginger decided to stalk and was unlucky to have a bid plated Mirror and off!!! Meanwhile Steve had that been 'nobbled' by Sandy for the match as the bread had been forgotten on the shop and he had to head back to the shops to get some French bread and ice cream for the evening meal. However he was back in time to prepare for the big event and indeed even had time to repair the Quad wings from its winter's exertions.

So I was all geared up prepared with a Method mix of Voodoo and hemp and sweet corn for an all out Guru method attack with Crab Pellet on the hair to the road bank where Steve had been feeding a sloppy mix over the past few days. My 1<sup>st</sup> choice of peg having chosen the road peg Steve had to hastily cut a swim 10 yards to the right where he could start the BBQ for dinner.

Needless to ask but Steve gave up after 1hr and  $\frac{1}{2}$  as being 11 fish to 4 down (I eluded to the others when they asked how the match had gone was that that I lost more fish than Steve caught! I had a quick start on the method approach having 8 Carp to 10lb 3 Tench to 2lb and one Roach 8oz to Steve's Four carp - But he did have the heaviest at around 12lb.

The dinner bell sounded and there was a sound of optimism as we toasted Devon Paul's Grassie and Baba Common's PB's (we haled back on mine as although I had two this week Steve felt sure I was going to break even bigger tonight. Every one headed for their new swims it seemed - The Zig approach discussed at Breakfast has now been discounted but Alfie had moved from Middle Two to R2 and found immediate success with a 41lb PB Mirror in just 15 minutes more than justifying his move (sorry Fred if you are reading this) but a gusty call by Alfie.

Steve boated my middle bait out to last night's position and I piano wired the line and set up in the River and Dead tree on Rods 1 & 2. Let's sit back have a few beers and look back on a wonderful day in paradise (well I did catch some fish today)!!

Thanks To Steve for allowing the match on the Stock pond - perhaps this may become a regular weekly event Steve? It's these little things that may go unnoticed that mean so much!!

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010

0130hrs - Had a solid beep on No2 rod and it was being pulling hard against the solid line. I lifted in and it crashed onto the surface making an impressive echo round the lake that I thought might wake every one up - Alas a the fight was short lived - the was a big lump and I was sure I had it clear of he snags but difficult to tell in the pitch Black as the Moon had not made it's appearance as yet. I was within 30 seconds extracting the line from around my head and the bushes to my left as the mainline let go. On inspection it was a clean cut not far from the terminal tackle judging by thaw amount of inert line I placed back on the reel. I was so fed up that I initially couldn't be bothered to re-rig but I did and cast out somewhere near the trees and back to bed, I tossed & turned all night reliving the last bite and wondering if it was my knot or just pure bad luck from a nick I hadn't noticed or was cut by something like a Swan Mussel or prior or during the brief fight.

Mia seemed to sense my Sadness and knocked on the Bivvy door at 0800 hrs - So I let her in we had licks and cuddles she sat at the bottom of the bed and then decided she would go and investigate else where.

Boy this is going to be a hot one - at breakfast its 27c and I had to relent and take off my shirt by late morning. Steve even commented on his return from the Dentist (He has a tooth ache that any can have if they want) that it must be Hot - Blakey's got his Shirt off. It was 35c at this point. Who came blame the fish for chilling out as well - phew!!!

No joy on the main lake - every one apart myself and Devon Paul had moved swims again. (who is still fishless despite Herculean efforts) will eventually spent the night with Steve on 61 and they were 'going to have a few Fish even on the Rigs that Andy & Neil had left behind to prove it was not their rigs that was the trouble.

Steve, Requested that I put the feeder out in the stock pond- still smarting from yesterdays hammering he could not believe I whipped him on the small 28g Guru Method, hw wanted go. I'm glad we did not have the match today as even the stockies were not having it - It was now 38c. Steve being Steve was striking at the slightest pull round but I indicated that we were only receiving interest from Roach & Tench - Indeed after 15 mins Steve managed to land a small Tench. He then had to go off and show the lads where to Fuel up for their return trip and get his medication for his Abscess.

I left my rods in the care of Sandy and had a walk round the lake as I did not walk the Dog this morning, and counted 36 fish along the road bank laid up under the trees I could not even tempt them with a bread offering. The Roach were of course very glad of it. He ultimate pee take was the Bog Orange Koi that goes around 25lb literally sat on a tree branch with its back just in the water opposite RB's.

I used up all my Method mix up in the Stock Pond and finally managed to nail a 6lb Hump Mirror along with 5 Tench.

Steve provided a good of entertainment on his return with the drugs - and typically open up the tablets and swallows them done then had a go at the Mouthwash O opens it puts in a measure full in his mouth and starts doing a rain dance (well we could do with it), I suspect that the mouthwash should be diluted - I think his mouth was burning somewhat ; Sandy read the instructions and found some in English - yes should be diluted 10:1 - Well that's 4 days worth in one hit.

After last Supper whilst setting up and after Steve had placed no2 under the tree spot for me again I could see Thunder clouds forming and within 10 mins thunder claps behind us but they did not materialise and the temperature would not drop below 22 c during the night.

I had a radio for the last night and got the banter underway by asking if Steve had caught anything yet - 34lb Common was the reply - Alfie was the 1<sup>st</sup> to query that, then I said that's the only bite you're going to get tonight.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

0030hrs: Two beeps off no2 under tree and with it being locked up immediate inspection of the Line movement to left - Lifted in and the fish has already kited away from the snags thankfully but alas it dropped the hook after a few more seconds, Cursing my luck that I knew that was effectively it for the week now, unless the Three Amigos' spot would produce. I re baited and threw it out in the General Direction of the trees. Luckily I heard a splash - It was pitch black.

Nothing more doing - nothing on the Radio, so started the long unwanted task of clearing away - Whilst doing so I had a run on No1 , but so realised that Devon Paul was Reeling after laying his line over mine. I did manage to retrieve mine and Devon Paul's' gear off the tree stump snag by walking up the road. Nothing else so Everyone has packed up and left The

Essex boys being last - I joked to Them that I would see you at the Tunnel- I packed my stuff away and had a lovely shower although it was cloudy it was very humid. Paid my dues and left an hour early then I normally do in the hops of getting an earlier train.

Well would you Adam & Eve it - as I got onto the A26 at Rhiems the rain started and the Temperature was down to 18c - Ugh!!!  
So speed reduction to 110kph up the following 220 Kms - It stop 40 clicks from Calais.

At the tunnel check-in I was able to get misled on the 1550 train instead on the booked 1620hrs, but a lesson learned here for future reference, I sneaked in on the queue for the 1520 train as it always takes an age to go through passport control etc. and I saw another car with My letter G going though, Then you won't believe - I know that Transit Van in front of me - The Essex Boys but we got lost through the maze of different routes - but I sneaked on the 1520 train !!! And as I write this we have just emerged from the Tunnel on Blighty side. So that brings to and of my yearly Pilgrimage to Bossard (It's new name).

In summary a heard week where I fell very lucky to have landed two fish and PB's to boot whilst the other more experience boys - Dan and Neil, Dave all blanked despite putting massive effort in. Well Dan did have a small 3lb Grass carp and as did Neil with their last cast. (These are in the lake as weed killer can longer be used in France so nature returns.

See you all next year.

Footnote: I met up with the Essex Boys on the M20 as we See-sawed with each other - I was on cruise control and Baba's right foot lack of control were the Culprits - We parted our ways at the Dartford Crossing.