

ON

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#7 Short Ferry Caravan Park
We pop along to a lovely Lincolnshire venue that is perfect for club-match bookings.

THE UP

Short Ferry Caravan Park is tucked away in idyllic countryside on the outskirts of Lincoln, where the fantastic, well-established complex offers everything the club angler could ever need.

As well as a fantastic pub, which offers food all day, and an impressively stocked tackle shop, there are five fantastic fisheries on site, including a soon to be opened specimen lake. The Old Marina is a fantastic silver-fish venue and even a stretch of the River Witham is on offer to

any of the residents who take advantage of the large static caravans on site.

For anyone wanting to book a match or have a day's pleasure fishing the 21-peg match lake is a fantastic choice; the lake is set away from the rest of the complex and although not the biggest of match lakes it's perfect for smaller matches where everyone wants to have an enjoyable day, catch a lot of fish and enjoy the banter that all club anglers love.

The owners at Short Ferry really do set an example when it comes to providing everything for the club

angler – not only is the fishing fantastic and the pegs spacious and comfortable, both keepnets and landing nets are provided to anyone fishing a match there.

Nets are also provided for pleasure anglers but are subject to a £5 refundable deposit.

Clubs can book the lake for just £5 per peg, although Short Ferry does offer an elite package for those wanting the ultimate fishing experience. For £15 per angler each member of your club will get a full fry-up in the pub, the club can then draw, sack up on fish and

meet back in the pub where sandwiches are laid on for every angler. If that isn't the perfect match fishing package then we're not sure what is!

To find out a little more about the fishing on offer we enlisted the help of local angler Steve Gregory. Former British match record holder Steve certainly knows a thing or two about catching fish and his Miracle Baits club anglers are regular visitors to Short Ferry.

We met up with Steve on Peg 10, a very attractive corner

STEVE GREGORY
Age: 52
Lives: Lincoln
Sponsors: Miracle Baits, Midland Angling Supplies

The lakes at Short Ferry are packed with these fighting-fit carp.

Steve took full advantage of a lily-infested corner.

VENUE INFORMATION

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peg that certainly screamed fish! "Obviously the corner pegs do produce some good catches but the great thing about this lake is the fish love to feed close in on all pegs, which is brilliant when you're getting on a bit like me and your back's going!"

Steve's approach was fairly simple, a swim in the corner feeding expanders through a small pole-mounted pot and a shallow swim at just seven metres. "I expect to catch a few fish in the corner at the start and end of the session but the bulk of my catch should come from my shallow swim, where I can easily feed hard 6mm pellets by hand."

As the lake is just two years old the fish are still relatively small; the bigger carp push 4lb with the average stamp being around 2lb, meaning tackle can be fairly sensible. Steve had set up one of his own pencil floats for fishing into the corner in around three feet of water and his

shallow rig was a 4x12 Carp Grey. Both rigs consisted of 0.16mm main line, 0.14mm hooklength and a size 14 hook, but the main difference was his elastic choice. A strong, hollow elastic was used in the corner to get the fish away from the many snags while the shallow rig carried the complete opposite. "This lake holds a fantastic head of good-quality roach and rudd and you can catch a lot of these on banded pellets, which I'll be fishing shallow today. A really light hollow elastic in conjunction with a puller kit or bung is important to prevent bumping these important weight builders." Wise words, but we were keen to let Steve get down to the important business of catching some fish.

Luckily we didn't have to wait long as he was soon into a rather angry carp hooked from the fishy-looking corner. "They might not be huge fish but they can certainly pull a bit," joked Steve.

He managed three more carp from the corner before

the swim went quiet, but with fish now swirling on his 7m line Steve was keen to go shallow. First drop saw a quality roach take a liking to his pellet and we were impressed by both the stamp and the quality of the fish. A steady run of roach followed before he hooked something more substantial – as the fish tore off he was forced to hang on for dear life! With the help of the puller kit, though, the fish soon lay bemused in the bottom of the landing net.

The next 90 minutes

followed the same pattern, where a few roach would be caught before a carp or two muscled in, and then the roach would return, and it was nice to see Steve putting together a quality mixed bag.

In just three hours Steve put together an impressive 50lb bag and really showed the potential of the fishery. The fact that there are so many quality roach on offer on top of a healthy head of carp means that even in winter you'll never be short of bites at Short Ferry. **mf**



A run of roach was interrupted by a hard-fighting carp!



The fish are in superb condition.



The complex features a great tackle shop.



Both silvers and carp play an important role in match catches at Short Ferry.