

EXPERT BEATS OUR CHALLENGE IN STYLE...

# Four fish in two hours on chods

**P**OURING rain couldn't deter Mark Woolley when he cheerily accepted our challenge to catch fish when signs of their whereabouts are minimal.

On receiving our call, the Milton Keynes rod packed up just hours into a session on a new syndicate water and headed to Stanwick Lakes in Northamptonshire.

Mark takes up the story at the complex's Swan Lake: "I decided to fan each rod out as I had the lake to myself and catapulted out some halved 20mm Starmer Coconut Fish and Halibut and Coconut boilies all over the swim.

"I hoped this would encourage the fish to move between baits, becoming competitive and making them easier to catch. I baited my chod rigs with a homemade White Coconut Fish pop-up and sat back with anticipation.

"I tried to listen out for signs of carp, but all I could hear was the rain, which remained constant throughout the night."

Waking in the morning without a bite, Mark was about to adopt a roving



**HOOKBAIT**

In this case Mark put his faith in the ever-reliable Coconut Fish pop-ups from Starmer Baits. Free offerings were halved and scattered to get the fish moving.



## Mark Woolley

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approach when his left-hand rod tore off and an 11lb 8oz common revealed itself at the other end.

"The capture of the fish was a good sign that the fish were now in the

area," explained Mark.

"I decided to hold fire on the mobile approach and recast the left-hand rod. I halved some more boilies and scattered them over the top.

"As I was taking some photographs the left-hand rod was away again. Once more the fish gave a decent account of itself, plodding and holding in the margins before accepting its fate.

"This fish was to be my biggest of the session at 13lb 10oz, and I quickly had a third take on the same rod, which I sadly lost.

"I put two rods on the productive spot and the tactic paid off when my middle rod pulled up to signal my fourth take in two hours. Although



Mark looks justifiably pleased with this 13lb 10oz common, the biggest of his trio.

the smallest fish of the session, it was still a welcome 7lb scaly mirror."



**HOOKLINK**

A stiff and springy hooklink is a must for chod rigs, and Mark's weapon of choice is Avid's Captive material in 25lb breaking strain.

**BUFFER**

This Avid Chod Buffer slips over the lead to create a neat presentation.

**LEAD**

Lead weight is very much personal choice, but at relatively close range and on silty bottoms, something under 2oz is more than enough.

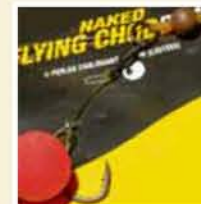
**Make the rig**



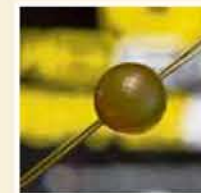
**1** Mark's rig begins with threading the Avid Flying Chod Bead components on to the mainline.



**2** Pull the bead securely over the buffer at the desired distance from the lead.



**3** Then thread on the chod rig. The modern readymade versions are as good as any.



**4** Finally, thread on the second bead and set it to give the hooklink the desired amount of 'travel'.