



**TACKLE** » Your tackle team: Dave Woodmansey and Mick Rouse

# As good catching these... IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN



**G**ET an eyeful of that fabulous action! Tri-Cast's stunning new XRS 2K4 Power Carp Feeder rod has a combination of playing power and bite sensitivity that lifts it into a league of its own.

The lightweight rod is only 9ft long, but it will sling 2oz loads, subdue double-figure match carp or, with the ultra-fine quiver in place, spot the tiniest touch on a single maggot hookbait on rock-hard winter waters.

Use it as a bomb rod for skimmers with 1lb bottoms, Method feeder rod for commercial pool 'reptiles' on 8lb reel lines, or even turn it into a swingtip/leger rod with the special adaptor included in the package.

As someone who spends a lot of time on commercial carp venues, I'm a big supporter of the current trend towards building shorter float and feeder rods.

On most of these compact, man-made waters you don't have to chuck a bait more than 40yds, so the nine and 10-footers are punching well within their weight, and shorter rods are far easier to handle in typical 'tight' swims hemmed in by banks of reeds on both sides.

The pencil-slim, two-piece XRS 2K4 comes with two 50cm (20ins) put-over (rather than push-in) quivertips – one ultra-fine, one medium-heavy. You also get a unique 36cm (14ins) put-over leger adaptor section with an end eye threaded to accept an old-fashioned screw-in swingtip.

The swingtip may be regarded by many as an angling relic, but a few anglers still regularly use them – and with a lot of success too. Last winter I fished alongside some lads from Yorkshire who were taking some of my local commercial pools apart using swingtip rods. They reckoned carp couldn't feel as much resistance from a swingtip, as compared to a quivertip. That made the difference when it got really hard. I also know some bream/silverfish anglers who still reckon the

## Live Test

**Tri-Cast XRS 2K4 Power Carp Feeder**  
(RRP £119.99)

By Dave Woodmansey [dave.woodmansey@emap.com](mailto:dave.woodmansey@emap.com)

swingtip is the only way to fish. You might not ever use the swingtip section, but it's there if you fancy a bash.

The fast-taper quivertips are lovely, and both blend in naturally with the rod blank without a trace of a flat spot. Both tips are plain black – without the trademark bright-orange or yellow last inch of colour you'd normally expect. I found that when the rod tip was tensioned over water, I could spot the slightest bite easily against the clear background, but when it was framed against the clutter of the bank or against swaying vegetation, it was difficult

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to read – especially when using the ultra-fine quiver. A quick lick of Tipp-Ex will sort the job out though.

The fine quiver shows the slightest 'knock and tickle' at any time of the year, but it will still throw a reasonable sized feeder, and is perfectly capable of playing the largest match carp. The medium/heavy quiver gives you a few extra yards casting range, and is great for warmer months when big fish are pulling rods off rests.

The really surprising thing about this rod though is the sheer amount of power generated through what, on the face of it, looks like a light and fragile bomb rod blank.

I took my test rod to the excellent

Fields End Water day-ticket fishery at Doddington, near March, Cambs. I've never caught a carp here under 4lb, and there are lots of powerful double-figure fish to pull your string.

Spooling-up with 6lb Daiwa Sensor (which snaps at well over 6lb) and 0.17mm (6lb 12oz) hooklength, I felt a bit guilty that I was 'overdoing it', but the words of the lads at Tri-Cast were still ringing in my ears.

"Dave," they said, "don't let the lightness and slimness of this blank fool you. It has a tremendous amount of backbone in it, and can easily cope with hard-fighting carp."

And so it proved. Fishing a 30g groundbait feeder with three soft pellets hair-rigged on a size 14 hook, I had carp to 6lb from an open-water swim without the slightest difficulty and knew there was a lot more power left in the rod to deal with bigger fish. The playing action was superb and left me grinning like a Cheshire cat.

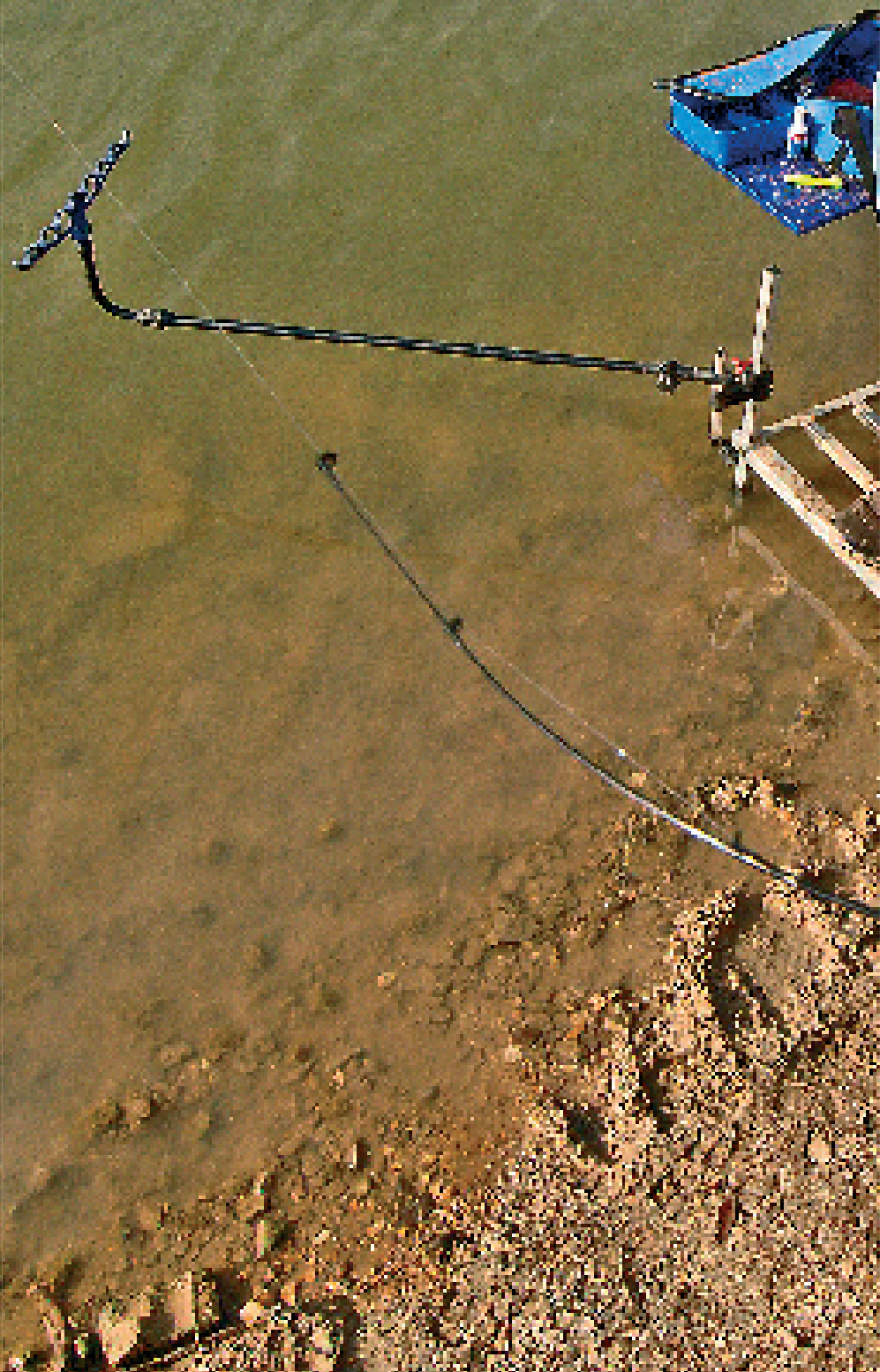
The bites were proper 'rip rounds' so, much to the amusement of the locals, I ignored the carp and swapped to single maggot on a size 20 hook and 1.5lb hooklength to target the water's largely neglected head of roach and perch.

Every cast produced a scale-perfect 2oz to 6oz redfin, and the ultra-fine tip flagged up every tiny touch. In winter, that's going to be priceless.

Another thing I like about this rod is its ability to flick a bomb just past the 16m pole line to an island or far bank of a snake lake to nick the occasional fish – of any size – in blustery conditions when trying to hold 16m of carbon steady would be a pain in the back – literally.

» **Tri-cast: 01706 861807**

» **Fields End Water: 01354 740199**  
or visit [www.fieldsendfishing.co.uk](http://www.fieldsendfishing.co.uk)





LATEST NEW GEAR »

as it is these...

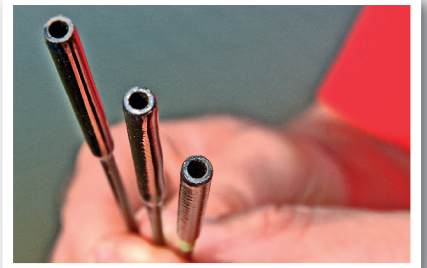


PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICK ROUSE

**TECH SPEC »**

**Tri-Cast XRS 2K4 Power Carp Feeder**

- Use:** Power carp feeder
- Length:** 9ft
- Action:** Fast
- Reel line guide:** 2lb to 8lb
- Hooklengths:** Down to 1lb
- Maximum casting weight:** 2oz
- Guides:** Super Lite Aluvium Oxide
- Reel seat:** Fuji DPS
- Handle:** Cork



**TIPS:**  
YOU get three push-over tips with this rod, two quiver and one swingtip adaptor.



**REEL SEAT:**  
THE reel seat is reasonably comfortable, but the featherweight rod is easy to handle.



**CHOICE:**  
THE three tips lend this rod a high degree of versatility. You can quiver or swingtip.

Value: ★★★★★ KEY ★★★★★ (EXCELLENT)  
 Features: ★★★★★ ★★★★★ (V GOOD)  
 Quality: ★★★★★ ★★★★★ (GOOD)  
 ★★★★★ (AVERAGE)  
 ★★ (BELOW AVERAGE)  
 ★ (POOR)

**VERDICT**  
A BEAUTIFUL rod with a multitude of year-round uses for match and pleasure anglers. A pure joy to fish with.

**ACTION:**  
LOOK at that beautiful action! This sweet bit of kit was brilliant to play fish on, and at the end of the session I couldn't wait to get out again to give it another go.

# TACKLE

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