

Top Gear

Your guide to what's hot in the shops

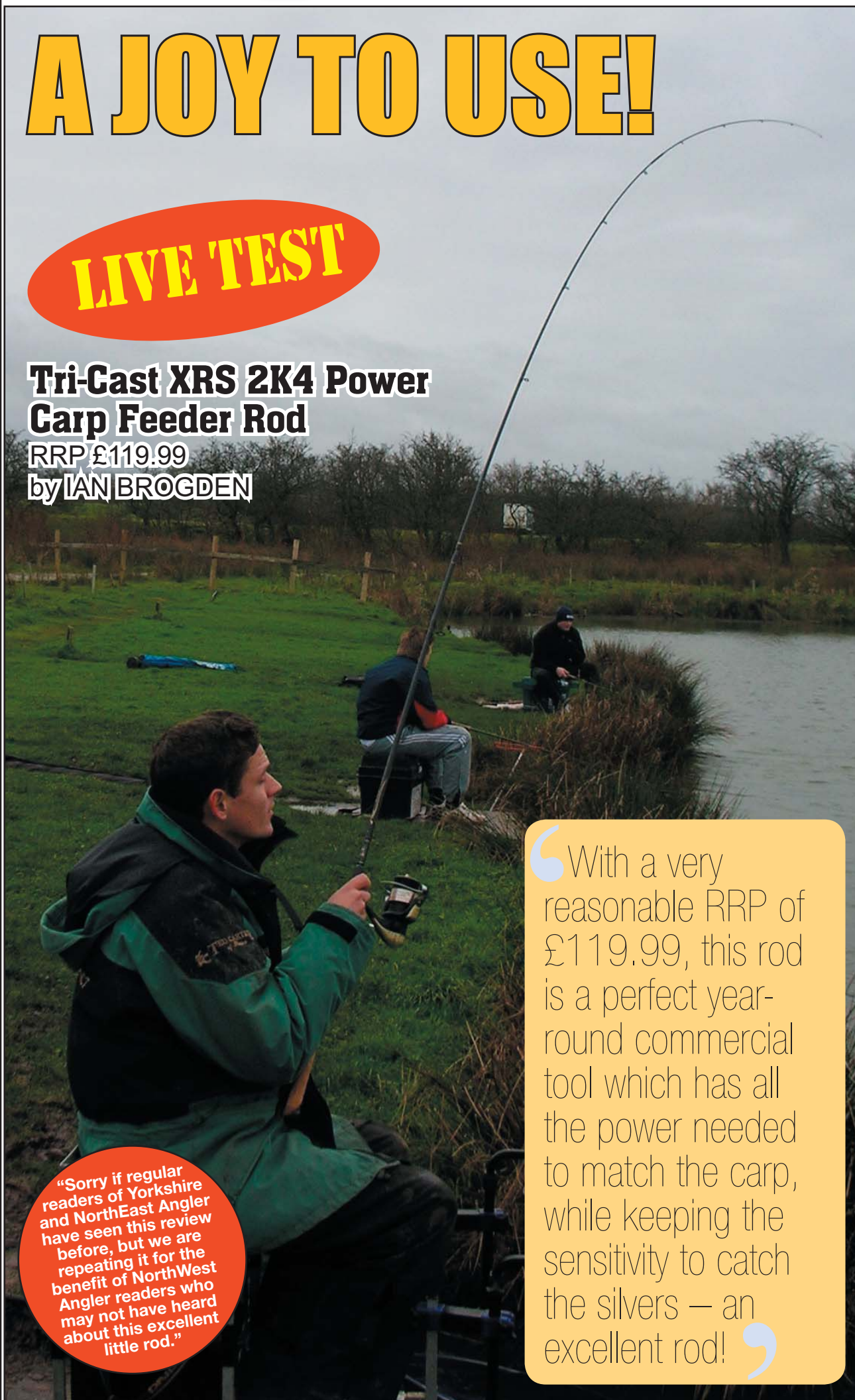
A JOY TO USE!

LIVE TEST

Tri-Cast XRS 2K4 Power Carp Feeder Rod

RRP £119.99

by IAN BROGDEN



“With a very reasonable RRP of £119.99, this rod is a perfect year-round commercial tool which has all the power needed to match the carp, while keeping the sensitivity to catch the silvers – an excellent rod!”

“Sorry if regular readers of Yorkshire and NorthEast Angler have seen this review before, but we are repeating it for the benefit of NorthWest Angler readers who may not have heard about this excellent little rod.”

WHILE on a feature a few months ago, I was lucky enough to witness Tri-Cast Highfield Star Vinnie Smith using the new Tri-Cast XRS 2K4 9ft Power Carp Feeder rod.

The rod looked great and subdued some big lumps in no time at all – Vinnie was obviously a big fan and he recommended I take a closer look at the rod in a Live Test situation.

One of the things that struck me instantly about the rod was how light and slim it was – if I hadn't seen Vinnie in action, I could have sworn that the rod would struggle with decent-sized carp and would be more suited to targeting silvers.

However, it only took a few minutes of fishing with the rod for me to realize that it packed a real punch in terms of playing power.

Fishing to a central island at a local commercial fishery, the rod had been on the rest a matter of minutes before a superb wrap-round saw me connecting with the first fish of the session.

The fish came to the rod tip with relative ease, before it began to make some desperate runs in a last-gasp bid for freedom.

This is where the benefits of the smaller feeder rod really came into play and I was able to stay on top of the fish and bully it towards the net very quickly.

A 3lb ghostie lay in the net looking up at me – it had been no match for the rod and it filled me with supreme confidence that the rod could tame much bigger fish.

More carp followed in an eventful and enjoyable session which left me with no doubts about the rod's power and ability.

The fact that the rod is only 9ft is a particularly attractive feature, after-all how far do you actually have to throw on most commercials nowadays?

The rod itself comes with three put-over tips, including a medium-heavy tip – which I used for that first session – an ultra-fine tip and, most interestingly, a leger adaptor section which has the option to screw in an old-fashioned swing-tip.

Swing-tip

Now, I never got the chance to try out the rod with a swing-tip and it is a fact that many anglers see that style of fishing as a thing of the past.

However, others argue that huge catches can still be had on this method and I watched in awe, as an angler bagged over 100lb of bream using this method for a feature earlier this year.

Whether you believe the swing-tip has its merits or not – the option is there and is a nice, original addition to an impressive package.

This rod is also brilliant when conditions dictate that you can not use a pole.

A few days after I first tested the rod, I was fishing a club match on a commercial water and was catching small skimmers pretty steadily at 16metres – when suddenly, out of nowhere, the wind picked up and blew me completely around, as well as throwing numerous bait tubs up in the air.

With no back-up plan, my match was over – until I remembered I still had the test rod in my hold-all.

I promptly set the rod up with the ultra-light tip and a bomb and before I knew it I was back amongst the fish.

The sensitive tip registered excellent bites from fish as small as few ounce and even though the rod is labeled as a carp rod, I would have no problem using it again in such a situation.

Another feature of the tips is that they do not sport a traditional bright orange or yellow last inch, and are black right through.

This is brilliant when the rod is positioned over a clear background, but can be harder to see over a feature.

With that said, those who prefer the more traditional coloured tips can quickly add a coating of Tipp-Ex to sort the problem out!

With a very reasonable RRP of £119.99, this rod is a perfect year-round commercial tool which has all the power needed to match the carp, while keeping the sensitivity to catch the silvers – an excellent rod!



THREE TIPS: The rod comes supplied with an ultra-fine tip, a medium-heavy tip and a swing-tip adaptor