

ROLL OUT THE BARROW!

Carp barrows have been around for quite a while now, but if you think the concept has nothing new to offer, think again. ACF editor **MARK HOLMES** gives his views on Prestige's latest offering.

Being the ancient, old carp angler that I am, my first carp barrow was indeed a wheelbarrow. Those were the days, eh guys? I don't think so!

I did a feature with Steve Renyard recently and, being the unlucky guy that I am, Steve's chosen swim was that far from my car it seemed like it was in another time zone. I loaded up my two-wheel barrow and started pushing it.

After 10 minutes I nearly called for an ambulance! My tackle was shifting around, falling off and the whole frame felt like it would break at any time. My opinion was that barrows were a waste of time and I should have made two trips with my tackle on my back and in my hands.

Well, I couldn't have been



more wrong if the new Prestige MK2 Carp-Porter is anything to go by. I don't often enthuse about tackle but this barrow is, in my opinion, the Rolls-Royce of barrows.

I took the barrow out onto the bank and found that putting it together was pretty much straightforward. My construction skills are legendary; in the awful sense that is. However, I managed it with no problems.

I feel the features of the Carp-Porter that make it so good are that it's light yet its construction is a rigid frame that prevents tackle sliding around. The addition of side bars makes the whole load completely stable and, being single-wheeled, the manoeuvrability of the Carp-Porter is easy, which is a must during the winter.

The jewel in the crown for me, though, is the adjustable holdall bar. This keeps the most awkward piece of our kit stable and distributes its weight evenly. Throw in rear legs that have a ball-system footing and you really do have the barrow for all seasons.

When you add the Prestige luggage that fits in the frame but doesn't take up the barrow's loading capacity, another useful storage facility is added.

A real big pat on the back must go to Alan Silver and his team, because this is simply the best barrow I have seen. With prices ranging from £99.99 to £129.99, this is real value for money. If you're in the market for a barrow, you would be foolish not to give this a very careful look.

