

BEWL WATER FLY FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 12th November 2021

Bewl has fished really well this week finally giving us a glimpse of what's in store for late Autumn and Winter. However, the Rangers have reported that although plenty of fish have been caught it has been achieved by only about half of the anglers fishing, the other half unfortunately missed out. That suggests the fish are still podding up and favouring certain areas and that luck played a big part for those that anchored. And remember, it's always worth moving at Bewl if after an hour you have had no action at all !

I missed last weekend but went out on Wednesday when fortunately conditions were just about perfect, with a SW wind at 6 mph, a good ripple !

For the first time for some weeks I bagged up with 8 fish, a nice surprise. Bewl Club colleagues, John Turner and partner had 9 between them and veteran regulars Arthur and George had similar.

Sounds easy, and yes it was once you stumbled on fish and used the right tactics. As at the weekend the fish were in pods, and it was necessary to keep moving, but then our three boats were drifting loch style anyway. I went out on fast glass, Booby on point, two Nymphs and Fab on top dropper. Didn't catch anything for at least 2 hrs, concentrating mostly in the main bowl with mixed retrieves. Finally had two follows to the pull but no takes. I did see George and Arthur catch though and enquired on their method of success. In brief they were using a single small Minky Cats Whisker on Floater with fish coming blind but high in the water.

So on went a floating line and new leader of 10 lb Xline, one dropper 8ft from the braided loop on which I tied the smallest white Minky Booby I had at about 2.5 " overall and a normal Cats Whisker comp size on the point. That did it, I started to catch steadily on the drift but found the fish far between, however when I did connect there were usually several together and I had two double ups, but on each occasion only landed the one (operator

error & barbless hooks !!)

Late morning I met up with John Turner who had been up Rosemary Lane on the Nymphs but not caught. (10 days ago John had caught five difficult fish up there on size 14 Buzzers). He saw fish but they didn't want to play. I told him my set up and where I caught, he changed and went on to catch consistently fishing not far away within banter distance. Interestingly, there was an Any Method angler anchored towards the tower, doing really well bait fishing on the float. His float was set at about 4 ft from the hook, I on the other hand was catching in the top 6" mostly, on a mixture of retrieves from pulling to static and medium fig 8. I had fish on each of them with 50/50 Booby and Cat.

My point here is fish don't often look down so they were mostly swimming at 4ft but quite prepared to rise and take my flies in the surface. Evidence that the water is clearing and visibility improving which in most places it is.

FISH SIZE

I must mention the fish quality and size this week. At the recent Grand Max Invitation Team Competition apart from the disappointing catch numbers there was well documented and justified criticism of the fish small size, although it was explained how it occurred.

This week however, although I had a couple at just over the pound the majority of fish caught between us fly rods were in the 2lb + range. The picture shown below which I genuinely caught on Wed was typical of the day and went 2.5lb which mirrors the standard of the latest stocking and have integrated well with the tiddlers of a month ago. They are all very welcome and I am told the stocking programme rumbles on with further stockings this month.

SUMMARY

More written this week in evidence of an upturn in fishing fortune. I just hope that it continues to improve for my report shows how good it can be when conditions are favourable. However we all know fishing is fishing, often an imponderable which makes the really good days go a long way to making up for the many disappointments and thanks to George and Arthur for sharing information. 🐟

AREAS

Best areas have been the main Bowl, with emphasis on Chingley Wood area, the Dam, the main jetty to the dam, the big bay (Belgrano) opposite Hook house, long middle drifts in the main bowl and Rosemary Lane at the end of Bewl Straight.

PREDATOR FISHING

Bewl has had a great start to the predator season with several just under 20lbs and quite a few pushing the mid 20s, plus an 18 lb beauty caught on the fly !!! There are plenty of boats available at weekends with our PREDATOR PERMITS offering great value for money and fantastic sport.

Tight lines to you all.....Ray French

****Update from the weekend****

The fishing was on fire last weekend, 13th and 14th. Whilst there were a few blanks, the majority of our anglers caught very well with reports on the jetty of full limits being taken from across chingley, Bewl straight and the main bowl.