



BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT  
Week ending Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022  
by Ray French

Stocked once again at the beginning of the week from the main slipway it didn't take the fish long to spread out nicely with reports of catches from pretty much all over the reservoir. Obviously some places are more frequented than others with the main bowl always likely to be the favourite of both Trout and Angler. It's a big area and deep, over 90ft at the dam and is also the hub of the reservoir with the two main straights Bewl Straight and Hook Straight providing the access to all the reservoirs bays, Creeks and points.

However, with such a volume of water its not always easy to find the fish, especially when we have had such a massive change of wind from our regular South Westerly to the very cold, strong and often sunny North Easterlies of this week. But many have found them and reports have come in from not only the favourite spots but because of the change of wind direction, also from areas that until now have not provided much activity this season.

#### AREAS

The main Bowl.

The boats have been the most successful this week due to the wind and sun and dirty water making it difficult from the banks. Although the bank area from the Lodge to the Aqua Park has continued to produced regularly. It is still true to say that most of the boats are catching at anchor around the sides of the basin, there are fish out in the middle but from my experience they are continuously moving long distances whereas at the usual hotspots they rarely move far. The Playground, the Dam, Chingley Wood, Chingley Point and Beauman's Point are always worth a look. And of course, the wind has been blowing over the Dam for over a week which has offered some protection for Angler and flylife on the sunnier days.

Hook Straight

From the Lodge all that is to the right as far as the eye can see is Hook Straight.

Although the majority of stocked fish appear to head to the Main Bowl and Bewl Straight there are always some fish in Hook Straight with Hook House, Bramble Bay, Bramble Point, Seven Pound Creek and the bays and banks from the old cages to the point of Beaumans. We have certainly had boats catching from Hook House to Seven Pound Creek including Bramble Bay and Point of late. Not surprising when the main wind is currently in that direction.

Bewl Straight

Rosemary Lane area has slowed down considerably this week albeit fish are still being caught, nothing like as much as they were. Again the wind may well have pushed the fish out from the area and back towards the main Dam Basin but there are so many banks, bays and creeks up there the fish could and should be in any of them. This Straight has been well sheltered in this wind from Chingley Point to Rosemary Dam and there has been some Midge hatches on the sunnier days and well worth a look. However its always worth fishing on the windy shores, a bit like a storm beach on the coast there is always food washed up on a 'blow'.

TACKLE and TACTICS

Recently I have found the Trout here have been taking both high in the water and right on the bottom and this week has been similar, dependent on where you have been fishing. The Any Method boys have had the majority of success mainly fishing Spinners slow and low but at anchor with a fix spool reel it is so easy to vary speed and depth. I have found the Di8 fast sink line and two mini Boobies on 4ft of leader still to be my most successful from a boat in about 10ft of water. Which is about the depth of our steeper Bewl banks for the bank angler. Having said that floating line has also caught for rods fishing in the more sheltered areas of Bewl and Hook Straights with a variety of Flies from gold heads to buzzers. Personally I still reckon at this time of year the Blob, Nymph and Booby on point is as good as any to fish from boat or bank, the colour is not vital but if the water is a tad coloured its worth having an orange Fly on the leader.

SUMMARY and FORECAST

Difficult and cold conditions this week but the fish don't worry too much about the cold, on the contrary. But they don't like a cold wind at Bewl. With the wind dropping over the weekend and getting warmer into next week we should see fish on top again. There are plenty of fish to be had !

BANK FISHING

This is still early for the banks at Bewl and no reason why the fish would want to leave them for the open water.

Whatever banks you fish make sure you cover the full depth from top to bottom and from fast to static.

Last weekend local club Tunbridge Wells Fly Fishing Society fished a bank competition from The Seat at Copens Reach to Dunstars Bay in Bewl Straight including Ferry Point. In difficult blustery conditions the 8 entrants managed a very creditable 20 fish on a mixture of lines, flies and depths. Top rod was Ian Watts with 7 fish, second with 6 fish was Russell Bell and third with 4 was Mark Tremain-Cocker.

Tight line to you all for next week...

Ray F.