

BEWL FISHING REPORT

Week ending Thursday 21st April 2022.

Ray French

Really good start to the week with last weekend giving plenty of rods excellent sport. All 50 boats, or close to it, were out as usual on both days and as a hint to action areas on Saturday one fly angler witnessed 27 Any Method boats anchored between Chingley Point and Chingley Dam corner. Always a popular area at Weekends with the AM's who like to stick together and enjoy the social camaraderie. But of course, the main basin is big, as is Bewl and there are plenty of options depending on wind direction.

This Saturday there is a large concentration of Fly Anglers boating on Bewl in competition as the opening round of the Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs holds the first round of their Summer League.

Given this report has a large online fan base and to preserve fairness and a level playing field for those clubs that fish the match I have written this report as normal, without favour. Having said that, the latter part of the week has not been easy so my report includes a large element of uncertainty, for this weekend anyway. 😞

I have put this report out one day early to give AMFC entrants who may be practising tomorrow an insight to the week thus far.

STOCKING AND FISH LOCATION

Recent stockings have mostly been from the launching areas outside the Fishing Lodge, however, the last stocking at Bewl was at Rosemary Lane, Bewl Straight, about 10 days ago. On this occasion, the stocking was not immediately advertised which has given the fish an opportunity to spread out a bit rather than suffer a similar fate to those soldiers who braved and witnessed the Little Big Horn at first hand.

At Bewl this usually means that some Trout will stay thereabouts but the majority will gradually return to the main bowl before high summer. That goes for most of Bewl, the fish are as widely spread now as they are likely to get. Nowhere is void of fish, it's just that some areas are less favoured than others.

Over the last couple of years, most fish have been caught in the area drawn by an imaginary line from and including Seven Pound Creek across to the old Cages up to Rosemary Lane. ie the Main Bowl, all the Bays and Creeks included in Bewl Straight and the expanse of water up to the Nature reserve.

At Bewl the afore mentioned Bowl is, as at most reservoirs, the largest and deepest area of the reservoir and a good place to start but it is also the first and worst to be affected by the weather. This brings me to this week's fishing.

WEATHER AND FISHING

As I said, the fishing was good at the weekend and Monday in fact all the time we had a bit of cloud and a mild SW wind. On Tuesday it changed and by Wednesday when I went out in the boat it had changed into an increasing NW wind and a clear bright sun which has stayed here for the last couple of days. Therefore, there is not a lot to tell, partner John and I did the usual Bewl tour, the Bowl, Bewl Straight, Rosemary, a bit of Hook Straight etc. and managed four fish to the boat. We changed lines and flies on numerous occasions, but I didn't think they were the problem. The fish were on it for about an hour and then just went off for us.

What bites I had were so shy I missed a few and the three fish I did get were not from a tug, the line just tightened. We were not alone, talking to others including any method boys confirmed their day was the same with two being the average and apparently many if the small waters fared no better.

The weather has been the same today and is forecast similar tomorrow although I did hear that today as the wind settled there has been more caught and we may well be getting an element of cloud.

I hope so.

SUMMARY

Cloud is the key at Bewl to rising fish, especially in a cold North Easterly. Our fish don't like it. The water is clear at the moment so the slightest whisp of cloud will bring them up.

Personally, I would try both on and off the wind but include a ripple where possible. Like most reservoirs at the moment the majority of fish are still fairly close to the banks, there are fish out but not in great numbers, in fact, great numbers are difficult to find at the moment, but the fish are there. I recommend, anchored or drifting, that you continue moving and, on the drift, use the zig-zag technique from 70 yds out to in or in to out to thoroughly cover a bank or structure.

Tight lines, Ray F.