



## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 18th March.  
by Ray French.

WOW !! What a performance....

.....On Wednesday in near perfect conditions over 250 enthusiastic anglers filled the full fleet of Bewl Water's 50+ boats and lined it's most popular banks to herald the start of this its 45th season, on what is undoubtedly the premier Trout fishing resort in the South of England....and they weren't disappointed !!

I was in a boat with Bewl Club colleague John Turner on Wednesday and although we had a slow start the day turned out to be one of the best opening days from the boat for some years albeit the bank boys were once again catching a lot of fish and had been since 'Sparrows fart' (early morning).....and still are !

But find them and catch them we did but not until I was given some advice from good friend and Club Teammate Rob Toptalo who was on the bank at Rosemary Lane, top of Bewl Straight.

I thought the fish would be high and we went out on slow sink lines with Booby/Fab on point, nymph in the middle and Blob on top dropper (washing line). We did a bit of fiddling about for half hour off Chingley Wood in a gentle ripple to no avail with nothing coming to the pull or to a slower deeper search. In fact nothing was happening in the boats at all at that time. But then it was not yet 9am.

So we decided to go up Bewl Straight and start at the small dam and work out way back. As soon as we started up Bewl Straight we became aware of the bank Anglers on all the accessible banks including the bays and every so often a figure would step back, his arching rod silhouetted against the light grey sky.

Of course when we arrived at Rosemary it was in festival mood with boats and 'bankies' having the customary 'bun fight' over territorial waters but it all seemed amicable and there were plenty of fish bags on show to illustrate success. We fished for a while and partner John had his first fish, I think it was on the middle dropper plus another tug but that was all. I had nothing. Then I spotted Rob, well not true, you normally hear Rob before you see him and this was no exception. He was between the seat and the Willows opposite Tinkers Marsh., yes, netting a fish. Moving the boat closer I caught Rob's attention and asked him the score. "Floating line, Booby on point Blob on dropper, fish very slow fig 8". Well, you would think that what we was doing was that different, but it was. We backed the boat out changed lines and started a slow drift parrallel but out from the bank and the boys. Within minutes we were both into fish. There was no evidence of them on surface but the

takes were very high with the lines sliding away.. We continued this drift all the way to Goose Creek catching steadily before returning up to Rosemary.

The next drift was one of the most bizarre I have ever done with two in a boat but being about 60m off the bank it certainly seemed to amuse our bankside audience.

Having set the drogue I was the first to lift into a fish on the Booby which immediately took off and was joined by another which hit the top dropper. Seconds later, John's rod bent over the gunwale, he too had a lock up. At the same time the fish were dragging the boat towards the bank Anglers. Panic! John needed to start the engine but couldn't. I applied extra pressure to my two fish but unfortunately the leader pinged and away went the fish. Things were getting a bit hectic so I grabbed John's rod and played his fish whilst he started the engine and backed the boat out, trailing the drogue, with me playing his fish as we went. Eventually we got back out again sufficient for me to pass John his rod back still with his fish. It had caused some hilarity and comments from the hecklers but the punchline was yet to come. When John finally got his fish to the boat he had one on each of his three hooks and they were quality fish needing two nets to land them. Having done that we finally brought the drogue back into the boat only to find a Trout in it, my Trout with my leader. I had lost my other Trout but retained my leader and flies. Oh yes and my leader hadn't broke but the loop on the leader join to the fly line had broken!

From Bewl Straight we came back down to the main bowl in the afternoon and it was exactly the same down there, so different to how we had left it in the morning. We caught steadily on floater using the same tactics and by the look of it the Any Method lads had a good day too, all had bags over the sides and I think most were catching on small spinners, again high in the water.

What a good day !

#### SUMMARY

Obviously I have only been able to relate what I experienced and observed but I spoke to many who enjoyed a similar day and I am sure the majority managed to catch. Even some of the more remote areas yielded fish and it was good to see stock fish turning up in Seven Pound Creek again, especially for the bank rods.

What was evident is the amount of Trout in the lake, yes I appreciate it was opening day and conditions were ideal but given that I was surprised and am extremely optimistic for our season. And I have to say what superb fish they were. I had been expecting generally small fish but not so, we had fish to 3 and a half pound with most at least 2lb.

#### TACTICS

Now, like I said, conditions were overcast and perfect. Last couple of days it has gone sunny. There is still plenty of fish there, they won't have gone far, they may have gone deeper but still in the same areas and close to the banks. Bewl fish traditionally stay close to the banks for the first month. With the water recently filled to over 90% the Trout love to graze the flooded grass banks.so if you are struggling from the bank either put on two small boobies, short leader and fast sink line.

Or floater with couple of buzzers and small blob in the middle and fish almost static.

#### OUTLOOK

All boats booked tomorrow ( Sat), but last I heard some available Sunday.

See you down there. Tight lines. Ray F.