

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 20th May 2022.

by Ray French

What a week of fishing we have had with plenty of fish, lovely weather, and clear water. What with the extra stocking last week the main bowl has been alive with fish all pretty much taking in the top 4ft.

I reported last week that the fishing was excellent and that the size of our stock was exceptional. I am pleased to say that continued over the weekend with a nice 5lb 7oz Rainbow on Saturday by Bewl Club angler Phil Thompson on the fly and plenty to 3lb from other Fly and Any Method anglers.

Phil was fishing in the Bewl Water Qualifying round of the English National Fly-Fishing Final and bagged up with 8 fish and a time bonus, including his specimen Trout to win the competition with 31lb 13oz. Joining Phil in the National Final was second-placed Bewl Club colleague Richard Denney who also bagged up with a time bonus at 28lb 2oz. Just two went through...Best of luck to both.

LOCATION

For the last 10 days, the main bowl has held a lot of fish with the SW wind dominating as has the first half of Bewl Straight and although patchy, Hook Straight is holding fish and the latest reports from our Rangers suggest ahead of Trout right at the top of Hook by the three Rivers. But then, there are probably fish in many of the more obscure retreats at Bewl but not enough to attract an armada of boats as they can do in the popular areas. If you want to have a look round in a boat rather than join a crowd it is still the time of year when the best areas are still on the wind within 30/40yds from the banks or a Dam either by anchoring close or drifting in. That goes for all the Bays, Creeks and wooded areas as well, follow the wind especially if it has been in the same direction for at least two days.

TACTICS

Since the beginning of the Season, I haven't changed very much from my basic Bewl leader set up, with flies of 'Colour' at each end of the Leader and a 'Nymph' or 'Wet' or two in the middle.

Normally, Sunburst Yellow Blob on top dropper, Diawl Bach and Pearl Cormorant on the middle droppers and Tequila Fab/Blob on the point fly. All small on size 12 barbless hooks where I can.

For three flies I usually remove one of the two flies in the middle...

Why the middle Flies? Because Bewl has just not got the natural fly life it once had and there are not sufficient hatches to turn them into feeding frenzies. But they are prepared to accept coloured flies and/or lures as prey or food most of the time!

Having said that they are taking Nymphs and small flies at the moment but then it is May, one of our best months.

Not only that but in the last two weeks there has been the largest hatch of Mayflies seen in Bewl for many years, although mainly visibly and confined to the corner of the Dam and Chingley there have been hundreds and today, even in the rain, a few were coming off at Chingley Point with some recently reported at the top of Hook Strait. So keep an eye open and report others, it's not often.

As I said the fish are not far down and an Intermediate or Floater is all I use whereas the Any Method boys use a small Spinner and/or bait/feeder which are currently set at about 4ft.

Just as the AM use Float and Spinner I retrieve my Flies with the same principle, some static and some variable in speed, it always depends on how they want it on the day, or often in the hour!

PROSPECTS

Prospects are excellent for this weekend and next week on both boat and bank with a light to moderate SW wind and some clouds putting the fish up and looking.

And good to see a bank angler on Facebook bagging up in the corner of the dam during the week with a full house of quality Rainbows.

And for those who enjoy catching PERCH, there are some quality ones about in good quantities. Certainly, off the main Dam, the main Jetty and the smaller Jetty near Canoe Corner. But you can bet your life they are well spread out it looks a good year for them!!

Tight lines next week, Ray French.