

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 24th June 2022.

by Ray French.

Another lorry load of lively trout during Tuesday night added to the current generous stock has ensured that there is plenty of fish to catch this Summer whatever your preference...fly or any method.....and yes, this week despite the heatwave, there have been some good results with several bag ups, albeit mostly by AM rods fishing pretty much on the bottom.

However, there are fish up and showing but these are almost exclusively feeding on Fry in the surface film to the point of refusing most unnatural lures or flies. Good fun trying though. There is a fantastic amount of fry this year but to find the shoals with Trout in tow you need to do a bit of searching for they seem to be at all depths. The surface ones favour the weed and rocky areas which are bank side with Ferry Point a good weedy area and Chingley Wood a good rocky area. I have had reports of surface fry feeders at both these places but undoubtedly there are more. Also, the structures are fry attractors with jetties, the dam and the towers are high on the list as are moored boats and the old cages.

But, having said all of that, there is a lot of fry deeper and with them the majority of trout at various depths with some, as mentioned previously, hard on the bottom.

I was out again on Wednesday in the sun and wind with regular John Turner. We guessed they had stocked recently as there were a few fins poking the surface close to the concrete slope between the fishing boat jetty and the rowing club jetty. Fortunately, nobody else noticed them!

With the wind coming from the North, we went up to the dam and drifted back down to the boat jetty in front of the 'Playground', normally productive after a stocking, on this occasion, it wasn't. Disappointing but just as well really, much better to let them spread out than to promote a slaughter. We can all benefit then during the lean weeks.

For us drifting on the fly the day was difficult, but we did do our homework. Fishing high in the water early on yielded nothing although one or two fish did 'splash' tempting us to stay higher for longer than we had intended.

The bubbles are now on full blast, and we tried them for a while to no avail. There weren't many fly boats out on Wednesday but there was quite a few 'spinning'. They weren't catching but those fishing the bottom were picking up a few, I watched them, they didn't retrieve at all except to net a fish. So, on went our Di8 fast sink lines... time for a change!

We fished out in the bowl, near the bubbles attached to a resident anchor buoy in about 50ft of water letting our lines go to the bottom and then inching them slowly back up. Normal three fly leader but this time with small minkie on point, buzzer in middle and orange blob top dropper. We did this for a while and apart from John getting some 'nibbles' nothing materialised. We also spent a considerable time fishing deep on the drift but I have rarely caught at Bewl Water deep when drifting and Wednesday was no exception. I did notice though, that the only other fly man out there, friend and club colleague George. (Sorry mate forgotten your surname after all these years) was catching pretty steadily in the 'Wheely' boat on the 'hook' towards the dam... He earned a visit.

Talking to George, he was also fishing classic Bewl 'deep', same kit as us but static, catching between 20 - 30ft. He had established the fish depth and then put the flies in the zone and waited, not moving them. He had caught 9 fish until now and was packing up as the takes had dried up. We had

been raising the flies from the bottom but never caught to establish the 'depth for the day'. Now we knew!

With a contended George gone, we continued in the same vein not far from where George fished, concentrating on the line Mark of 20 ft with 10 ft of leader. We were not in such deep water here and not on the bottom but getting close.

I had the first take, with the rod arching over only for the culprit to come off after about 5 seconds but enough to establish it had taken the Buzzer.

It was not long after John got his take and what a take it was! The fish bent the rod double as normal at depth (see pic below) but this was a very powerful fish. John struggled with what we both believed to be a 'big'un', it didn't want to come up and went pretty much where it wanted. It didn't act like a pike, we have had a few over the years, I would say it was a good rainbow, we have had a couple of lumps this year to 10lb....alas, we will never know for just as John reached for the net the fish parted company before we actually saw it. Devastated. Loss turned out to be a broken hook! A strong forged and barbed 10. No way should it have broken but it did! We gave it another half hour with no more takes and at 3pm with the wind blowing even stronger we gave it our best.

SUMMARY

Didn't actually land a fish on Wednesday but learnt a lot and our trip was enjoyable and not uneventful.

There are fish up on 'Pinfry' although not that obvious and not all the time. Also, I am sure that many of the PinFry 'Pirates' were coming up from the deep, getting a mouthful and going down again this week rather than cruising about on the chase as last week. PinFry has also grown a tad and is now about 15 - 20mm average size in the main shoals.

Fish are mostly down, certainly at 20ft and with reports from AM anglers of fish on the bottom in 50 ft of water that's a big range of depth. Makes drift fishing on the fly difficult in any wind but could be a bonanza in the flat calm!!

The new stock fish may well keep up in the water this weekend especially if there is cloud and at some point, the Bubbles will attract. We fished them twice on Wednesday with both light and heavy Fly lines with no response but it's only a matter of time. Also, the Bubbles water was very clear as was most of Bewl Water with a general water temperature of about 21C according to Ranger Rob Dixon.

Not surprising then that the fish are down, although the next week is predicting cooler conditions.

This Summer there is plenty of fish to seek, it's not easy for the Fly boys, but changing tactics in the sun should bring reward. Pre Covid, in summer I was catching at 40ft in the main bowl at various places including the White Buoy off Chingley Point. Not many, but one or two a trip and I didn't try it that often. Knowing the fish are there I will go deep more often this year!!

Tight lines. Ray F.

Pic: John T struggling with the unknown warrior.

