

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.

Week ending Friday 25th March 2022.

by Ray French.

It's a long time since I fished in the hot sun at Bewl and caught fish and although it has been possible this week it has not quiet been the 'bunfight' of the first few days of the season. Since the weekend we have had continuous sun accompanied at times with strong East winds and alternatively flat calms. However plenty of fish have been caught from both bank and boat by fly and lure rods but it has certainly been thought provoking and a time for patience.

### OUT IN THE BOAT

Out on Wednesday for my first visit this week with Bewl Clubmate Chris Nunn. Blue sky, flat calm, bright sun and the temperature already rising! Daunting' fishing wise but at this time of the year I couldn't think of anywhere I would sooner be. Out in a boat !

I figured in these conditions the fish would be down and out from the banks a bit but not that far and because of the slight water colour and its temperature no deeper than 12-15ft.

I wanted to concentrate on the fish grazing on Bewl's recently flooded areas.

So I put on a 'Booby Basher' fly line (DI8. Fast sinker) and two Boobies on a short leader, basically to search the bottom. Chris put on the more conventional Fast Glass intermediate with Blob on top dropper, Nymph in middle and Booby on point.

Our morning session consisted of working our way from the boat jetty in a series of multiple stop/starts (no wind) to Rosemary dam up the top of Bewl Straight and back. Well, in short Chris did have one take at the 'Playground', along from the boat jetty but that was all and apart from one Any Method angler in the corner of the dam that was all we saw netted from the boats although we did see fish caught from the bank at the 'Oaks', Rosemary Lane. Now that is not to say there wasn't any fish caught but we did not see it. In short we struggled during the morning. Certainly my theory of scraping the bottom, often foolproof early season, didn't work. But then not a lot did. Now why these periods of complete shutdown occur I do not know, barometric pressure, wind change, temperature, I have no idea, but we have all witnessed them. BUT, moving on....

The afternoon session.

At the 1.30 pm and still using the Booby Basher and now back in the main Bowl I held and lifted the rod out for the umpteenth recast when the tip arched over and I was into our first fish of the day, a nice Rainbow of 2lb+. By then I had changed to a longer leader with Orange Blob on top dropper. (Still short to the fly line), Diawl Bach in middle and Cat Booby on Point. The fish came to the Cat Booby on point on the hang at about 15ft.

To coincide with this a slight wind breathed on Bewl's glazed surface and slowly changed it to a delicate ripple and then a reasonable ripple, sufficient to deploy the drogue.

Over the next hour and half we continued to drift the bowl and I had another take and then a fish, again on the Booby, hung at about the same depth. Chris was next into a fish on his blob, still on the fast glass and slow fig8 but higher in the water at no more the 3ft down. We caught a couple more on our respective set ups, but mine now took the Blob higher in the water and then Chris had one on his Nymph. With the ripple came evidence of a hatch and suddenly an area that had produced nothing all morning had gifted us six fish plus takes. I changed lines to the fast glass, took off the Blob and put on a black Cruncher, I was now fishing two Nymphs and a Booby.

I caught two fish almost immediately on the Cruncher, again at about 3ft and slow fig8.

We both continued catching, not hammering them but steady and finished well into double figures on Catch & Release and could have caught more.

Back on the jetty and talking to a couple of the Any Method lads they had an almost identical day and said most of them had. That was the caught nothing until after lunch and then the action started. They caught in the Bowl out in the open water also at about 1m depth with spinners. I later

learned that there were fish caught from the banks up Bewl Straight and Rosemary in the morning although it was not by many. However, like the main Bowl sport improved dramatically in the afternoon.

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> TRIP TODAY FRIDAY 25th

Out with another Bewl Club mate John Turner today in conditions very similar to Wednesday with bright sun, but this time a Northerly wind. This morning again was slow for many and although Bewl straight and Rosemary produced, those of us in the main Bowl struggled. I did manage to catch 4 and had a couple of takes which in the conditions I was pleased with. I played around high in the water for most of my day with the first caught on a Cat Booby drifting into the Green bank at Ferry Point. But in the end I reverted to my opening tactic of Wednesday, Di8 and two small Cat Boobies on short leader, right on the bottom with slow pulls. This I did drifting parallel with the bank 60yds off the Playground in water averaging about 12ft. I had three fish doing that in fairly quick succession but as often happens on this type of day, the fish just disappeared..... wished I had gone their earlier!!

INFO - Bewl regular fly rod Alastair Garner reported two successful trips on the bank at Rosemary Lane this week where he had 6 and 9 on successive visits. All came to a mixture of Damsel Flies, Nymphs, Blobs and Buzzers. Well done Alastair.

Also, boat angler and friend Baz Reece, fly rod, was also down during the week, he caught 8 fish on Midge Tip line and a mixture of Fabs and Nymphs. He caught 2 in the morning and six in the afternoon retrieving the flies with a slow fig8..

#### SUMMARY

What is great about fishing it can be so unpredictable, at times unbelievably frustrating and at others it can surprise and delight.

This week has been a bit like that and the weekend will no doubt be the same. One thing you can be sure of though is that there is plenty of fish in the lake and thankfully, due to some early stocking there has not been an open week of fish carnage like last year and many of the fish have already spread out. The fish are fit and hard fighting and reports and results have been very good. So with the water still very cold there is every opportunity to catch in the sun albeit it has been difficult at times.. However, with the weather returning to more of the norm next week, with a good element of cloud, it should bring the stock back up in the water and raring to play !

#### FORECAST & FLIES

##### Fly Boys

The next few weeks should see an increase in Midge hatches and Buzzer activity so when fly hatches are evident take the opportunity of fishing Buzzers on your leaders. Conditions will be ideal in light ripple on or off the wind. Fish them on floater, on long leaders from bank or boat either straight through, on the Bung or on slow sink with Booby on the point. On Wednesday Chris Nunn reports one of his fish was full of small Buzzers so it's worth a try even now.

Generally, I am still going out on Fast Glass with 'Washing line' with Blob, Nymph and Booby. Sometimes its adequate other times like this week I have had to chop and change, but it's a good place to start.

##### Any Method

There is so much similarity in Water Craft between all methods that much of what is written has merit whatever branch of Angling you enjoy. At Bewl the small single Hook spoon is proving popular and productive at the moment and Spinning seems to be the go to method.

Have good week and tight lines, Ray F..

And remember the clocks go forward on Saturday night giving you an extra hour of fishing !!