

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 8th April 2022 - by Ray French

Last weekend the recent stocking gave impetus to the excellent fishing we have had in this first four weeks of the season from both bank and boat where there have been some really good catches from a variety of places. If you recall last week's report I talked of strong cold Northerly winds affecting the sport. Unfortunately, this week has been much of the same with a couple of days being almost unfishable from the boats. Certainly, drifting lochstyle in the main Bowl with fly on those days was impossible. The only way to fish the Bowl was by using the anchor and keeping close to the sheltered sides of Chingley and the Dam wall. Alternatively take refuge out of the main area in either of the two primary Straights, Bewl and Hook, including their Bays and Creeks. Having said that those who have been out have caught well especially on Monday and Tuesday when we had some cloud.

WIND & WEATHER

It's worth a comment on the weather at this point because pretty much most of the decisions I make on where and how I fish on reservoirs is based on it and most importantly the wind direction and none more so than here at Bewl Water. In the last few years and certainly at this time of the year I have found the majority of fish favour the bank the wind is blowing into. I say majority because of course there are exceptions, but then there are so many bays, creeks, and hills that the wind gets diverted into ending up going every which way!

Certainly, looking from the boat jetty that is my rule of thumb. For example, on a wind blowing out from the boat jetty, Chingley Wood, Chingley Point, Ferry point down to the Nature Reserve, Beauman's Point and both sides of Bewl Straight to Dumpsters Bay are a good bet. Of course, everywhere have got fish by degree but those places I would prioritise for that wind. For a SW wind, coming up Hook Straight and into the Dam I would change that list in parts. Certainly, the Dam would feature heavily as would the Playground and Chingley Point and 500yds up the Trees in Bewl Straight.

I do however always check the wind direction at the fishery at least two days before a visit, that is always worth doing.

TEMPERATURE

Again, important, especially at the moment when daily temperatures are changing continuously. At Bewl with cold winds in open water and the sun warming sheltered parts, the Trout are going up and down like a lavatory seat in an Indian restaurant. Bewl Trout don't favour a cold wind and are basically down close to the reservoir sides and bank. Those you see are moving to a new holding area or are fresh stockies which usually swim high for the first few days.

IN THE BOATS

Like I said, difficult this week with winds, but the Any Method boys, who mostly anchor were able to spin and search by fan casting and varying the depth. There were some good catches too, many of these guys are regulars and very competent, they know that at this time of the year where the fish favour, so you won't see many out in open water yet.

Again, the go to methods for me in the boat drifting lochstyle in favourable conditions is Fast Glass Intermediate using small Blobs, Fabs and Boobies with Nymphs, and Wets as fillers. For best results though I have continued with my combo of two Cat Boobies spaced equally on a maximum 6ft leader attached to Di8 fast sink line (Di7 on the bank) cast and let settle on the bottom in maximum of 10-15ft of water and twiddled back and always hold for 15 seconds prior to recasting at the lift. Should do it from the steeper banks as well, you will be surprised. However, when conditions make it difficult from a boat to hold station and fish slowly it's has been necessary drop the hook at times but then it can be that or blank.

FLIES

Sadly, I believe the natural food has declined over the years and I don't think now there is a great deal for our stock to eat, that is assuming they last long enough to learn what the options are. As a result of filling the reservoir direct from the dubious water of the River Medway my view is that in much of our reservoir is void of natural life. Certainly, when I do spoon a Trout it rarely has anything substantial in it. At the moment small Buzzers are the most likely, they will get bigger, but we do not get the hatches of yesteryear. But us fly boys do catch on them it's just a matter of being right place, right time. Certainly, whatever flies you do use ensure you have some colour on your leader, the brighter the better at times for our Trout do like to smash and grab with a preference for fruit.... they love an Orange.

BANKS

As usual early season the Bank fishing is good at the moment but again the weather has made it difficult with the cold wind and sun. Along the Lodge bank past the Playground has produced regularly but on many days they are holding just too far out.

On Sunday Bewl Bridge Flyfishers Club hosted their annual Bank Competition on the popular stretch from 'The Seat' down by the Bird Sanctuary, up round Ferry Point and along Bewl Straight as far as Dunstars Bay.

Conditions combined a bright blue sky with a bitter cold Northeast wind that for many was straight into their faces. But 19 hardy souls there were, who braved the weather and caught 52 fish to almost 3lb giving a very creditable rod average of 2.7.

The winner was the same as the TWFFS Club bank competition reported last week, Ian Watts, who caught his 8, finishing at 3.15 pm. Ian, who is currently in a rich vein of form, once again used a Di7 fast sink line with two cat Boobies on a short leader brought back close to the bottom. A ploy that was also successful for others on the day.

1st Ian Watts:

8 fish for 18lb 4 Oz Fin. 3p.15

2nd: Mark Tremain-Coker

8 fish 14lb 7oz Fin. 4.15

3rd; Mick Priest

7 fish 13lb 12 oz

Good to see even in the bright blustery conditions sport prevailed and even the cold was forgotten with the fish and chip dinner and pint in the restaurant after the weigh in. Incidentally the area at 'The Seat' yielded 3 Pike between 7 - 8lb during the day. (Probably the same one.)

SUMMARY & FORECAST

A good week then considering the mix of weather, with most fish staying round the outside and moving with the wind. That prolonged North wind moved fish down Hook Straight and out of Rosemary Lane at the top of Bewl Straight. But it's gone back to Southwest today and getting a tad warmer. So, it could be all change again in the Straights.

And with the warmer weather we should start to catch fish much higher in the water at times and hopefully see them to cast to.

The weekend looks good and so does next week and I anticipate some cracking fishing, there are good fish in, and they haven't been hammered from lake or bank so come on down.....have a good week.....and tight lines!

Ray F.