

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 8th July 2022
by Ray French

With clouds evident most mornings during the past week, there has been a lot of fish showing at times, especially in the central basin, but catching them has proved difficult!

When I say showing, I mean randomly jumping or splashing the surface and immediately returning deep. Occasionally they will stop up in numbers in the heavy cloud for a while, mopping up some micro or phantom midge but not for long. I was out this week on Wednesday and watched them carefully; the fish I saw were not on fry as last week. In fact, I didn't see any Fry this week at all. The reports from the lads fishing the Towers said the Fry are no longer there in great numbers, and neither were the fish, although a few were taken from deep there today by AM boys on spinners.

There have been quite a lot of fish on the dam and tight in, so some fry could be there or have possibly dropped deep on the bubbles, which is where they went last year.

We did have fish on Wednesday, as did some of any method lads, but not many. Saw a handful of fish on the Bubbles, but they didn't want to play. In hindsight, I should have gone deep on a fast sinker line and checked it out, but as I had been on it earlier with only one fish to show for it I couldn't be asked to set it up again. Right at the end of the cloudy morning, with the odd fish still showing, I changed completely and tried the dry flies. Too little, too late unfortunately, with the sun breaking through because I did have two surging follows to a dabbled Daddy Longlegs and two enquiries to a small greased-up Hopper and a Claret Cull. Promise to me, I will definitely try that again. I used Dries a lot in the old days but in recent years, Bewl Trout have responded more to colour than Naturals but there hasn't been the number of Naturals about here like there used to be. Nor are there the fly anglers to try them, although we are getting a steady number these days. I remember using a fly called a griffith's gnat to these 'difficult' fish. Dry or wet, it was a great little fly. Tied on a size 14, it had a tiny body of peacock herl with a palmered body of Cock Badger hackle, fine silver rib and a couple of strands of 'twinkle' Glisters poking out the back.

I have had reports of people catching ones and two's from all sorts of places so the fish are spread out in the reservoir, however, I still think the majority will soon be in the main bowl with the deepest water and constant Bubbles....

SUMMARY

Plenty of fish, most of which have gone deep but occasionally in the cloud a contingent from the last stocking a couple of weeks ago, show themselves on the surface or appear as 'Polaris' Trout leaping to the sky! The height they jump vertically indicates they have come from depth at speed and the fact that they are smaller than our majority of stock indicates they come from the last stocking, which was premature to avoid the 'hot' water temperatures we are about to get in the next few days. So, mid-summer is always a difficult time for Fly fishing unless you anchor but not a real problem for the Any Method lads who prefer to anchor anyway and catch well doing so.

We anchored this week, and although fish in the boat was scarce, we did get interested and had a laugh. To be out on the water in a T-shirt and shorts, slight breeze and beautiful scenery, well, it is idyllic...Now that Bewl is Any Method, it's an ideal opportunity to introduce your Grandchildren to fishing by taking them out with you during the summer holidays. A small spinner, rod and fixed spool reel are all they need, and it is easy to do. They will be capable in minutes! Look at the Bewl website for more information about the fishing opportunities.

Enjoy the weather and your fishing, fish deeper in the sun, and try the Bubbles, the dam, any structures, old cages, and moored boats. Water quality is excellent today. It is currently extremely clear with a temperature of just over 20° but rising.

Tight lines, take care, enjoy.

Ray F.