

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 3rd June 2022.
by Ray French.

As predicted plenty of fish on parade this week, what was not predicted was how difficult they would be to catch!!

Last weekend we had good catches on Saturday with most rods getting fish but then Sunday proved more difficult for many in the sun and cloud although regular fly rod Ian Watts had ten Trout to win the local Tunbridge Wells club competition, so he managed to sort it.

The Any Method lads also got among the fish mostly with float and bait as the fish were at times reluctant to chase the spinners apparently.

With Bewl not open to boat fishing on Monday and Tuesday I was out on Wednesday with regular partner John Turner in bright sun and hardly any wind and only the merest of ripples. Immediately we spotted rising fish albeit only by way of small almost unnoticeable rings in the flat areas. Not many, but it looked promising. We had our normal intermediate lines on, this time with a "washing line" set up of Blob, Nymph, Cormorant and Booby on point.

It soon became apparent that the fish weren't interested in our flies and were totally preoccupied with some food form in the surface film. I could describe our morning in detail, but it was very much the same and very repetitive. We drifted slowly around the main Bowl and Dam seeing a regular pod of fish on the surface and trying to catch them with a variety of methods. I went from intermediate line to Floater and from mini Booby and size 14 Nymphs to Dries with not a lot of success and although it was frustrating it was also good fun. Continuously casting to rising fish we turned a few of their heads and had a couple of half-hearted follows but ultimately no fish in the boat. However, things began to change at lunchtime, there was increasing cloud and a good ripple all over and there was a lot more fish evident, especially out in the middle. The wind although slight was now from Hook Straight into the dam.

I decided not to compete with the "naturals" for the fish's favour anymore and brought 'Colour' back into play with a revised long leader set up of three small Fabs spaced 6ft apart with 7ft from the top dropper to fly line. I often keep the flies well apart from when the fishing is difficult, for no particular reason but it often works for me, especially with Colour. And it did work, eventually, after dragging a size 12 Tequila Blob across a pod of 3 three I got a savage take. At last, and a fish in the boat!

The fish now when evident were swimming high, literally in the surface film and still feeding. My technique was to keep the casts short so I could quickly cover any movement, target the fish and cover it's/their path with the Blobs. As soon as the flies hit the water I lifted the rod and skated them back in a full but slow swoop. During the afternoon I had three doing this and two later by a straight slow fig 8. I also lost two. (Operator error).

John had 3 colours two 'blind' to small Booby and one on an Orange Blob.

So, we did end up with a few fish having thought at one point we were going to miss out. I know it sounds like there were fish all over in the main bowl, there were, but we stayed on the drifts that encountered them and they were moving a lot in pods and on this occasion, we stayed in the main bowl so cannot report on the Straights although I know the fish are their albeit well spread out!

Oh yes, and John did spoon one of the fish which was stuffed with tiny Buzzers so there you go!

SUMMARY

Just shows all is not what it seems in fishing, when we saw those fish early on it looked easy-peasy, but it wasn't. Ok, I could and probably should have stayed longer on the Dries, especially the 'Culls' but I wasn't prepared enough and was impatient. What was surprising on the day was how high the fish were in the sun although the recent rains had evidently cooled the water.

FORECAST

Excellent with 2,000 Trout going in yesterday (Thurs.) June should be a cracker of a Month especially if we get our share of cloud cover.

Enjoy your fishing and tight lines.

Ray F.