

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Friday December 10th 2021.

Winds of change !!

If you recall last week I reported the fish were very much high in the water with temperatures reasonable, overcast skies and light winds. That all changed last Saturday and this week the wind has dominated events. Not only in direction and power but also in temperature.

First point though is that since we abandoned our cages system of bringing on fingerlings to adulthood on site, in favour of importing private fishery stock, I have found the Trout have behaved differently, which is not particularly surprising but evident to us regulars. The two most obvious traits for me has been the reluctance of current stocks to actively chase through the surface in pursuit of disturbance patterns which Bewl was famed for pretty much all year round. The other is there that they are not lovers of rough water and high wind especially if the winds are cold.

These two points have been particularly obvious this season and evident over the last few weeks.

Lately on calmer days the fish have been high in the water but taking mostly a couple of inches under the surface, sometimes in pods but mostly well spread out, not obviously tracking and rarely seen.

They are still in the main basin and all the water you can see by standing on the boat jetty from the main Dam to the old Cages And some are up Bewl Straight and in it's bays all the way to Rosemary Lane where it was last stocked.

However as soon as a cold wind and moderate wave gets up they are much more likely to take to calmer areas especially if there is sun. No need to travel far, often it need not be any more than 50 yds. For example the back of the Aqua Park has often had fish on SW wind as has the corner of Ferry Point into Bewl Straight or Beaumans Point.

The other factor influencing catches this week has been the water temperature which has dropped a couple of degrees, as a result the Trout have been inclined to drop down deeper in the water on some days more than they have been. If you recall last week I did say I would expect them to as Winter approaches.

On the fly fishing front I was talking to a couple of Club colleagues who were out in boats on the drift this week, John Turner and partner on Wednesday and Nick Cox with Ian Watts today.

On Wednesday John had 3 fish plus pulls and interest using a floating line all day in cloud and sun. Today Nick and Ian Watts had similar success but with less action, on heavier lines including I believe hanging the flies at the boat on the D15. Both boats were on the drift.

### TACTICS

Not rocket science, with a standard 2 or 3 fly rig on 10/12lb leaders. When you do find fish at Bewl a double up is often on the cards hence the leader strength.

My flies on Sunday to start will be Booby on point, Cormorant on dropper and Blob on top, all tied on size 12 barbless hooks and on the Airflo Fast Glass 40+ Intermediate line.

I have used the bigger flies Minkies Snakes and Marabou lures a few times of late but so far they have not caught much for me, the small flies have dominated, but with the colder weather and the fish dropping down that may well change.

### ANY METHOD

The AM anglers have had success with Float/Bait and Spinners still being their main method. Those that now know the water have been doing very well at anchor so if you are a newcomer keep an eye out for them, they won't be far off fish.

As for the banks, there is still little evidence of anglers but I am sure it is now worth a try and my advice would be fish low and slow, unless if course you see a fish move.

### SUMMARY

The water is still very clear and although the fish are mostly spread out they can still see the Fly/Lure at distance. Vary your retrieve style, depth and speed constantly especially when getting no action. Wrap up well and keep off the worst of the wind when it's cold. The fish will. !

**STOCKING - STOP PRESS !!**

Bowl Water was stocked again on 12/12/21 to ensure your Winter sport is maintained. Obviously day to day results may differ but the fish will be there, so it's down to you...oh yes, and a bit of Lady Luck.

Tight Lines - Ray French