

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 14th January 2022.

Report. Ray French

Well, what a Roller Coaster week of fishing we have had since my last report with two major weather changes, from last weekend through to mid day on Monday and then from Wednesday until now. But it does illustrate the enigma that is fishing and an opportunity to show how true the old adage "right place right time" can be !

I left last week's report with the Gale force winds of Saturday, settling down a bit on Sunday with fish coming to most rods, Any Method, Fly and Predator. Not in big numbers but steady. Monday began the same, as the SW wind finally dropped to a ripple and the cloud cover increased and with it the Trout began to respond even more, with fish being caught in good numbers and pretty much all over the main basin and the start of the arms.

But it was Tuesday when anglers saw Bewl at its winter best !!! For Tuesday's conditions were just about perfect, low overhead cloud, light Southerly ripple and a quarry that was receptive to pretty much anything, fur & feather, lure or bait. A prelude to a couple or three hours of sublime fishing as almost as good as any all year....

Fortunately a couple of mates had picked it right and were out for a jolly, BBFClub member Nick Cox from the bank and NKFDG colleague Paul Cramp and friend in a boat. They fished at one of Bewl's favourite stretches between the Lodge jetty to the Playground and Aqua Park. Apparently, on Tuesday this whole section fished with Trout up to 3.5lb. Such were the conditions that Nick was catching his fish on a floater and Buzzers amongst other things and after a couple of hours, with pulls, nudges takes and plenty of action he had 7 on the bank.

Now Paul had been down last Friday in cold windy conditions with Club man John Dunmall and although he had a couple of pulls, fish to the boat eluded them.

Not so on Tuesday !

In a frantic half day Paul and partner had over 20 fish to the boat on fly, with a Catch & Release ticket and all returned. Fishing Lochstyle on the drift and no more than 100 yds out and often closer, the boys caught high in the water, on a variety of flies and light lines.

It was inevitable that other boats came to the area and they caught but not all, for fish were also coming out at Chingley Wood, Ferry Point and the main bowl.

Of the AM lads, the ones with light Spinning lures were doing better than the the Float/Bait combo's on this occasion, of late they had been catching well hard on the bottom.

So, on Wednesday, after talking to

Paul and Nick, I teamed up with long time fishing partner Chris Nunn on what we anticipated would be a slaughter. 😁😁😁.

On arrival at Bewl it was immediately obvious the night had brought a major change. The ripple had gone, replaced by a glass smooth calm with the merest hint of wind now coming from the North, with a hard frost and ice covered walkways. The clouds had gone and a huge naked Sun hauled itself slowly over Chingley Wood and blinded everyone who dared look in that direction. Oh dear !

This one paragraph will describe our day. We caught one fish and had a couple of takes each, Chris using a Fast Glass, Blob, Cormorant and Cat on point and although I used that for some time to no avail, my fish and take came on a Booby Basher (D18) with 6ft leader and two Minky Boobies tied at 3ft and point. And although conditions have settled I think even today (Friday) with the sun out it won't have been easy, but then out in a boat in splendid Covid isolation, fishing with a partner 12 ft away is pretty good therapy !

SUMMARY

I am always amazed with fishing, it never stops surprising me and this week has been no exception. I fish here a lot and have seen it all or at least most of it, but to hear of the sort of fishing enjoyed by those on Tuesday In January was incredible. I honestly didn't expect fish in those numbers to show much this month, or even be there. Frankly I thought that with the rough climes of last weekend the residents would be down and out.

How wrong can we be !

MAIN AREAS

Obviously given that this is a large area of water there can be fish everywhere and of course there are but then there are a lot of species in here. For the best chances of a Trout I would still stick to all the water you can see standing on the boat jetty and don't go far from the banks!

OUTLOOK

Very good. Ok, it's bright at the moment but at least we know there are fish to be had. Depth will be the key thing, so fish with an open mind,. After the last few days the fish will be hungry, lethargic and probably near the bottom (many fish have leeches on them) so low and slow is still the best bet. Any sign of cloud and try higher in the water especially between 11am and 2.30.

With less than a couple couple of weeks of the season left there are ample boats mid week so come down on spec and treat yourself.

Tight lines, Ray F.