

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 10th June 2022

by Ray French

Great start to the week with plenty of fish being caught at the weekend by both, Any Method and Fly Rods, with the latter coming out on top. Why? Because of the overcast sky and balmy weather, the fish were high in the water and feeding, favouring fishing on the surface with floating lines using Nymphs and Colour to rising fish. Reports from some indicated success with the Dry flies, which is always good fun and rewarding when conditions are right as they often are in June!

However, things had changed somewhat by Wednesday after Bewl Water's weekly two-day fishing break. I was out in the boat again with weekly partner John Turner in what looked to be near-perfect conditions, with good cloud cover and a relatively light wind. Having said that, the Barometer was dropping, and there was a real threat of thunderstorms. Now, over the years, I have never noticed the weather playing too much of a vital role, other than the obvious sun and wind, but I think we have all had those days when the fish completely switch off for no apparent reason. I have often not known why. Wednesday was one of those days; the fish were not having it, even with the perfect conditions for at least half the day anyway. Then the forecast caught up with us, the wind increased, and the heavens finally opened at about 3 pm to the expected deluge. Fortunately, we did see it coming and managed to get off the water in time, having somehow managed to get three fish during the day, albeit more by luck than judgement... different flies, different lines, different depths. The fish had just switched off!

Yesterday fished better, the rain had gone through, and the wind was kinder, although it was still difficult. Catches increased, and this time the lads at anchor did better, especially the AM lads using floats and bait.

I have to say that when I fish from a boat, it is nearly always drift fishing with a drogue (water parachute) to steady the boat, casting small unweighted flies on various fly lines which sink at different speeds to search for the depth that the fish prefer to be at the time. Basically, it is the format for competition fly fishing, it's a bit limiting in some aspects, and bad weather is quite difficult and demanding. Still, I have gotten used to it over the years and find the restrictive rules a motivating challenge.

But yesterday, as Wednesday, and again today, the anchored boats did better. Yes, I had crept out again for another go today. Just like Wednesday, conditions looked good but yielded little, for me anyway. Today though, there were a lot of sun and a horrendous wind gusting big time. I went everywhere from the top of Hook to the Gorse Bushes up Bewl Straight, including most of the main basin, unfortunately to no avail. There were fish caught but not many and mainly on the anchor...

Conditions were bad!

Now, for the good news... This weekend the wind is expected to drop right back, which should induce a hatch and bring the fish back on the feed and believe me, there is a lot of fish in there at the moment. There were lots of fish evident last weekend, and they are still there. In common with many other Reservoirs this week, the sport has generally been disappointing. Maybe there is something in the mystical Barometer, the changing air pressure and our fickle friends after all.

But you get days like this, that's fishing, and there is no point in me massaging the truth in these reports; better to be honest to avoid disappointment and retain some cred. Anyway, who's to say

you wouldn't have caught it, that's the beauty of our sport, so much is the right place, at the right time.

I am out in the Bewl Bridge Flyfishers Club annual boat competition this Sunday, so I need to fish better than today. Some will get it right; some always do. Let us hope it is you!

Tight lines to you all,

Ray F.