

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 18 November 2022.

by Ray French.

Well, after the long hot summer I suppose we should have expected the Gods to balance the books and boy they have with a vengeance these last couple of weeks, with rain clouds the main graphic on the National TV weather charts. Down here in the Southeast at Bewl Water we are having our fair share and it looks like next week could be much of the same.

The good thing is the reservoir is noticeably filling with a natural contribution from its four small rivers plus a major input from the river Medway, albeit we are pumping in and filling Bewl and other reservoirs further down the line. The downside is the water colour, which I have to say has continued to be bad, making fishing very difficult.

This past week, especially last weekend, has seen plenty of boats out with Any Method, Fly and Pike rods all represented. Although fish have been caught, in truth not in large numbers, they have been scarce.

I was out today in the sunshine and because of the brisk WSW wind, which actually had a cold chill to it, we decided to get out of the main Bowl and spend time in Bewl Straight which is mostly sheltered.

Sadly, I cannot report a fish a chuck, the swirl of water with the line arcing off and sliding down in a powerful run... in fact I cannot report a fish at all...! However, we did see fish, and a couple of other boats who had followed up out of the wind also saw fish. Not many but regular, close in and out in the middle and spread out all the way up.... a good sign!

The last few trips I hadn't seen many fish and had relied on the Di8 and Minkie Boobies for success relatively deep, which I started with today but had no interest.

So having started seeing fish off the wind we came up in the water and fished the top couple of feet. Actually, we both had a take which in that water colour was quite amazing. Partner John T's was a really good pull but he missed it! At least we were kept interested and expectant. Until, at 2pm, most gave it a rest, us included. The dark clouds rolled in, and it got cold.... end of play!

### SUMMARY

Difficult week but after today we were encouraged by the fish we saw. There is no doubt they didn't want the flies today. I didn't manage to chat to the SM boys but they said the fish were there, off the wind in Bewl Straight and visible at the warmest part of the day between 12-2pm. Often the most productive time in Autumn / Winter. Certainly, look for similar conditions out of the main Bowl on a cold SW wind especially now the reservoir level is rising and filling the bays. The Cages, Seven Pound Creek, Belgrano Bay and Top of Hook are worth a look. The fish will tend to be higher in the water in the warmer areas especially on the freshly covered grass and be more obvious.

Certainly, I believe that the more the water fills the better it will fish and at its present rate that is becoming very obvious. So, this weekend, try off the wind and vary the depth. As I left tonight the wind was a Westerly going from the Lodge towards the Chingley Corner of the dam. Try this side first and progress over. No joy, move out of the Basin and up Bewl Straight or Hook Straight.

Tight lines, Ray F.