

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 20th January 2023.

by Ray French

With the water-level high and the reservoir almost full the water is at last showing signs of clearing. Each week it is a bit better and so is the fishing. During the past week, when it has been possible to fish in the freezing conditions, both the Any Method and Fly rods have caught. Not in great numbers, but nevertheless an improvement over the last couple of weeks plagued by the strong winds and intense rain.

I crept out in the boat today with Bewl Club colleague Nick Cox for a morning basking in bright sunlight and very little wind. This allowed us to drift slowly without a drogue, concentrating on an area from the Lodge to the Aqua Park which was comfortable and usually holds fish at this time of the year.

I fished my regular set up of late, 2 Minky Boobies on the Fast Sink and by way of a change Nick used a four fly Washing Line set up on a 10ft sink tip.

This morning, fortune favoured the Sink Tip with Nick having 6 takes and 2 fish to the boat, whereas I had 3 takes and no fish to the boat. At least we had interest and both Nick's fish came to Nymphs just off the bottom, possibly as a result of the slightly clearer water and warmer conditions. They certainly were not having it hard on the bottom today! I must add that our retrieves were extremely slow which is the norm in winter here, and with the increase in the wind mid-morning we dropped the hook.

Given the more settled conditions and light winds over this weekend and next week we should see some sport especially from the Any Method guys who between them use a variety of methods, invariably with success in one of them. Certainly, I anticipate that when the reservoir is full in a few days and the pumping-in stops, the water will settle and clear and the fish should be much more co-operative.

In light of that, and with so many fishing days being lost to the weather, Southern Water have decided to extend the season for boat and bank a further month to the end of February!!!

We were only out in the morning today and didn't move far from 'home' but reports to the Rangers suggest that the Green bank opposite the Lodge, Chingley Wood and the old Cages are also worth a visit!

Rob Dixon, a Bewl Ranger and experienced Pike angler reports an increase in Pike activity in this week's cold snap, not yet the big boys but still top-quality fish.

Whatever your choice, boat or bank, winter fishing on Bewl is invigorating, provides an enthralling challenge and blows those Blues away, whatever....

Tight lines, Ray French.

Below. Pictured this morning netting his first of a nice brace, Nick Cox

