

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 6th January 2023

by Ray French.

Although the high winds have made boat fishing difficult this week, those that managed to miss them have enjoyed some good sport albeit again it has been very much right time, right place!!

The majority of fish are very much hard on the bottom, as you would expect this time of the year, and it has been the most productive area of operation for both Any Method and Fly Rods alike. To fish it most effectively I have found it best to anchor the boat, which is what John Turner and I did today. (Friday 6th).

It was nice to be out again after the Christmas break and the mild temperature and sunshine was a bonus especially knowing the fish to be down and not phased by it.

In January, time is precious as we normally finish at 2pm, so we didn't travel very far fishing just two places today. The area out from the Lodge down to the Aqua Park and over Chingley Wood about 80yds down from the Chingley Point towards the Dam, we anchored at both in a freshening wind.

The fish were in both places but they are not easy to find nor easy to catch, that is where the large element of luck is the involve. Having said that, those of you who read my Bewl reports regularly have witnessed my almost exclusive use of one tactic that gets me through the winters at Bewl and so far hasn't let me down, although it has been consistently hard so far this winter.

A pleasant surprise today though as I managed 6 Plump Rainbows, caught on 2 White Minkie 3" Boobies tied on a 6ft 10lb Xline Flouro leader. One 2ft from the fly line and the other on point. Fly line as usual in the winter was the Airflo D18 Fast Sink. I did have a further four takes that didn't stick so well pleased, my best day for some time.

John, using the same sort of set up, had takes and eventually managed to boat one..... always frustrating when sitting 8ft away from a boat partner with the same gear but a different result.... but then we've all been there, many times!

SUMMARY

Fishing is steadily improving along with the water level which is currently over 80% full and as it fills you expect the recently flooded areas to perform. In the last three trips we didn't catch in water over 20ft deep and most in about 15ft. That leaves a lot of options especially around the banks and in the fresh areas of Bewl Straight. However, they are pumping in water up Bewl Straight so check for murky water. Generally, the water is murky but better than it was and evidently not bothering the bottom feeders.

Pike anglers have been catching steadily although not in large numbers or size as yet. Best this week a nice 12lb fish yesterday, again in top condition!

Bewl open every day until Jan 31st, take advantage of the mild weather and the fishing!!

Tight lines, Ray French.