

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 24th February 2023.

by Ray French.

Bewl Water ends its current season next Tuesday, 28th Feb, and my word it is sure finishing with a flourish!!

For the past three weeks I have reported that sport has been brisk, with many of the Fly and Any Method regulars catching their limit. It has been the same this week with the boats doing particularly well. I have mentioned the regulars especially because they are now enjoying the reward for putting in the time, at the end of the day it's a big learning curve. It is not the easiest of waters especially in winter, but if you put the time in, look, listen, and explore the water, rewards do come.

There has been some excellent feedback this week, and now that the reservoir is as good as full the fish are beginning to turn up in the more obscure places. Not in great numbers as yet, but it's early days and we are still on overwintered fish.

Bewl Straight in particular has done well with boats finding the odd fish pretty much all the way, especially up the top end at Rosemary Lane and Tinkers Marsh. Surprisingly, as did Hook Straight to a name from the past. Jeremy Lucas called in and caught down Hook Straight, but then he could catch in a puddle. A top rod at Bewl in the day!

The regular areas continue to produce quality fish for all methods with Chingley, the Dam, Ferry Point, and the North shore out from the Playground still providing the bulk of catches. The methods I have used all winter are still working well for me and others, with 2 small Boobies on a short leader fished slow and low. In fact, now that the fish have decided to play it's not so much fly type, bait, or spinners, it is really depth and speed. However, such is the water clarity now (about 1.5m) that the fish are prepared to come up and take higher so be prepared, however you're fishing. For me though it is about fishing very much near the lakebed in a maximum of 6m of water as slow as you can. Which often means round the banks of the reservoir or not far from them.

Obviously, in some areas 6m of water will get you 50-80m out. Parts of Hook and Bewl Straight have many such places and of course the North Shore from Bramble Point to the Dam is one of the most productive with the Playground frontage being the most consistent this winter. Of course, as always in my report I have to generalise. With limited time and space, it is always a summary from info received and my own experiences. I am sure there are rods catching with different techniques and in places I don't mention but then equally there are some who may not be catching at all.

### ALL CHANGE!

On Tuesday the season ends and with it Bewl fishing goes into overdrive to ensure that the new season, which this year starts on Wednesday March 15th, is ready, willing, and able to provide a cracking opening week for us all.

That leaves just over two weeks to sort out the remainder of the boat fleet. Engines and boats serviced, overhauled and repaired; anchors and ropes untangled; knots sorted, and endless layers of seagull shite removed from boats that have been tethered on the water for months. Lifejackets renewed, checked, and repaired etc, etc.....

By the way, I have been asked to mention, if you have a Bewl lifejacket in your kit or the car please return it when next down so it can be serviced and put back on the rack.

And of course, most importantly, there will be 6,000 prime Trout in three deliveries to be stocked and I know head Ranger Dan Baker would like to trickle stock around the reservoir if possible. Almost certainly one of the deliveries will be at the Rosemary Lane as usual, always a popular area early season from boat and bank. The other two stockings are likely to be in the main bowl and Hook Straight.

So there you have it. If you are fishing this weekend, although colder, the NE wind will be off the dam apparently so you will at least be sheltered in all the favoured places...

Below.

Open day is always a frenzied rush and the boat jetty is no exception. This picture was taken some years ago, but it will be just the same in March.

