

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Friday 3rd February 2023

by Ray French

A good week this week with a few Trout moving up in the water on the warmer days giving the fly boys an unexpected bonus on what has seemed like an age searching the bottom with heavy lines and lures. Obviously in winter the weather changes almost on a daily basis so you never quite know what you are going to get, and this week we have had a mixture. A bit of sun where the temperature and fish have been kind, and a couple of days with cloud and a cold gusty wind which have provided a contrast yet still provided some action. As always with fishing, it can be feast or famine with some more fortunate than others.

On Sunday, Wednesday and today, Trout rods have taken in the sun and on the drift with a mixture of Wet flies, White lures and Peal Cormorants scoring well at about 5ft.

On the nasty days, bait fishing on the bottom at anchor has been the most productive method with very little on the drift. Spinning has been ok but not at speed and with small mobile lures. As with the fly, winter fishing at Bewl is a relatively slow & patient business. The fish at best are lethargic and don't want to chase very often so work the spinners rather than speed retrieve!

In fairness, up or down, the Trout are not easy to catch but then you wouldn't expect them to be in February. Their reaction this week, however, suggests that they are at last beginning to move and although there is not a lot of evidence to support that fact, there are a couple of points to note;

- Three of our regular 'Fly' boats came in this week with catches of 5 or more fish to the boat....
- Both John Turner and I caught today on Sink Tip lines and Cormorants at about 6 ft....
- The reservoir is now 95% full and the pumping has ceased for a while...
- Don't forget there was a lot of fish stocked at the back end of last year that for one reason or another haven't shown yet!!

Tomorrow is the Bewl Bridge Flyfishers' Club Annual General Meeting and Auction. Guest Dan Baker, Bewl Head Ranger, will also be in attendance to talk about the fishery plans and prospects for the coming season. Next week I shall report on his comments.

Until then, tight lines, Ray French.