

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 7th April 2023.
by Ray French

'Fun in the sun'....

Yes, the fishing has been fantastic again this week with both Any Method and Fly catching plenty of fish. Even the Pike are showing up with a 'biggie' caught and shown on Facebook earlier in the week!

Of course, the 'Rules' of fishing always apply... right time, right place, and a large element of luck! Don't worry there is certainly plenty of fish to pull your string. So much so that this week's stocking I mentioned in the last report has been held back a few days when it is hoped some will be done on a 'trickle' basis by boat.

I have been out as usual this week, caught plenty and seen plenty caught and every day both the boats and banks have been well patronised. And so they should be, Bewl is fishing well.

WHERE TO FISH

With the reasonable weather of the last week a lot of fish have been on the move and in some areas it's been more evident than others. Having said that the vast majority are still staying within 60m of the bank with a few exceptions, in the Bays and Creeks and those areas sheltered by the wind. Bewl Trout will follow the wind onto the banks providing it is not too strong or cold and will hold station, so the wind into bank is always worth a visit. Easy from a boat of course but not so from the bank in a breeze.

Rosemary and Tinkers Marsh are still holding plenty of fish from boat and bank. In fact the whole of Bewl Straight has fished well with this week's hot-spots being 'Dunstars Point' to 'Ferry Point' and on the woods opposite all the way down to Chingley Point. There has been a big shoal of fish moving up and down this area all week, very close to the trees.

As the wind turned colder and came from the East into the Lodge, albeit no more than ripple really, it was sufficient to move the shoal which have been off this bank for a while up to and on the Dam. So, for really the first time this season, the Dam is back in the game and reports bear this out with quiet a few rods bagging up. Hook Straight is also fishing to those who have ventured that way with Seven Pound Creek always a favourite, as is the old Cages area and up the top of Hook at the 'Three Rivers'. Probably the most scenic area of Bewl Water, Hook Straight, is certainly worth a visit. Maybe not as many fish as in the day they were stocked from the cages, but they are there especially now the water is so high.

So, at the moment we are getting the best of both worlds in that boats and banks are providing excellent sport. Many of the boats are catching their 8 fish, as are the banks. Even a cold Northerly gusting 17mph wind didn't deter Bewl Bridge Flyfishers's Club last weekend who fished their annual bank competition. 17 Anglers caught 93 Trout for a rod average of 5.5. (Full report on BBFC website and Facebook.)

METHOD

As far as method, pretty much any method goes. The fish are not fussy and providing you put Bait, Fly or Spinner in front of them they will take it unless the weather, air pressure or water colour put them off and today all are ok. Having said that, the fish are moving up and down in the water at different times of the day so make sure whatever your method you can cover from lakebed to surface. I have again used DI5 with 2 Pearly/Black Cormorants and coloured Booby on point this

week and caught well on the drift with a slow fig8 retrieve. Sometimes I have retrieved straight away, sometimes counting down, but on retrieve don't forget a slow long pull a couple of times to get the Booby down in steps. Most of my fish have come after the pull down as the Booby adjusts and starts to rise again. So, make sure if you tie your flies the hook and dressing are not too heavy for the eyes. They need be buoyant!!

Also, although our fish are not big, they are strong and Double ups are not uncommon so check your knots and use sensible leader strengths. Personally, I use 10lb straight through. 8" droppers with two turn Water Knot.

Tight lines, Ray French.

Note. Bewl Rangers are now doing spot bag checks on numbers taken every weekend. The Bewl Ranger team is now 6 so any rule breaking please report it.

