

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.

Week ending Friday 12th May 2023.

by Ray French.

Fishing this week has been good, with the cold NE winds of last week turning to a friendly S Westerly. Again, last weekend saw the majority of Bewl's 50 boat fleet out with plenty of rods bending for both Any Method and Fly anglers. The banks have also done well for those who prefer to walk and fish, especially over the freshly covered grass of Bewl Straight, the Lodge bank and Copen's Reach.

It is fair to say that the weekend boat fishing is mostly patronised by Any Method rods, whereas weekdays have more of an equal balance with Fly rods better represented. On either day there is plenty of room for all, and Bewl are actively trying to redress the balance by improving midweek facilities. There are extra staff and the boats are now on a Summer schedule, available 7 days a week, as of course is the bank fishing. Although pre-booking guarantees a boat, especially at weekends, during the week there is usually enough boats available and ample cover for those spurts of the moment impulse trips! Also, the vigorous programme of regular stocking, which has been so successful this season, has been exclusively midweek.... a great opportunity to get on them first!

There has been a resurgence of weekday fly fishing and it's good to see. This week, as well as the regulars, Bewl has hosted two Fly Club competitions that had good results and a Major Fly Club League competition is due at the end of next week.

STOCKING

This week the latest batch, which was pre-reported last week, arrived on Tuesday and was stocked directly into Bewl Straight at Rosemary Lane. For the last couple of days the wind has switched again and is now coming out of Bewl Straight, and quite a lot of fish will move with it. So, it will be worth looking in the bays and creeks that line the straight back to the Main Bowl which is very much the final destination for them in summer.

TACTICS

At this time of year tactics cannot be more basic, it is solely a matter of... location, location, location!!

The water is for the most part clear. There is a bit of algae on the windy banks but not inhibitive to the fish. The water temperature is good and during periods of cloud the Trout are high, fresh, and hungry which means they have no preference as to which lure, fly or bait.

Location...I can say that they are literally everywhere. The whole reservoir has been stocked twice, but it's a big body of water and deep, so obviously in the main they are well spread out. However, as is normal with recent Stockies, many are still shoaled up. Certainly, they are now out in open water as well as bankside although much of that depends on the weather. On fear of repetition, Bewl Rainbows do not like a cold wind, bear that in mind. On a cold wind at least keep out of the worst of it. However, on a warm wind, especially with cloud, they will show and often congregate on the windy banks to feed on 'natural' debris.

For the newcomer, obviously take advice from the Rangers but the Main Bowl is always a good place to start. Explore the perimeter first i.e. the banks, the dam, and the trees to about 100m out and if no joy move out into open water. There are now fish moving out there and will be more as the water heats up.

I have watched the AM boys. Most are on lures and doing similar to us on the fly, varying the retrieve from fast to slow and fan casting, albeit usually from an anchored boat. On the question of depth, it is often the imponderable. Suffice to say I doubt they will be deeper than 15ft. In fact, for the majority of time I would say 6ft.

OUTLOOK

May and June are two prime months when the fishing is normally very good and allows the angler to fish his preferred style with reasonable confidence. Personally, as a fly fisherman, I tend to fish the 'washing line' tactic a lot at Bewl using a mixture of colour and 'natural' flies. Having said that, I fish small unweighted and mostly barbless flies to competition size out of habit from years of competition fishing where catching Trout was made as difficult as possible!

Anyway, however you fish, from Cooked Prawn to Snake 'fly' to tiny 'Dry', the outlook is good so get fishing!

Tight lines and enjoy,
Ray F.