

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 19th May 2023.

by Ray French.

Although the winds were light and much of Bewl was flat calm, last weekend was the highlight of the season so far for all methods. On this occasion the fly boys had the edge because the fish were right up in the water. Not always obvious, but they were there all right, swimming at around 2ft down and occasionally sipping tiny midge off the surface. The problem for the Any Method lads was that the Trout were too high for float fishing which fooled a few for a while, and the Trout didn't want to chase which meant the Spinners needed to be light so they could be fished slow and stay high. However, by Sunday afternoon most had sorted it and there were some happy faces once again back at the boat dock.

The week continued in much the same way with the fish high and the water clear but with the wind continuously changing direction and the increasing sun, you never quite knew what to expect sport wise. The fish have been there ok but were not always willing to play 'catch me' all the time and in the sun were not always near the surface. At the moment (Friday) with the wind back in the Northeast and a definite chill factor, they are more evident out of it in the sheltered areas. They are also prone to switching on and off in these conditions during the day but not necessarily all at the same time. So, it often pays to move to a different area when the going gets tough.

I have always paid great attention to wind direction and temperature at Bewl in relation to Trout movements and have often mentioned it in these reports. Early in the season I commented on our stock not liking the cold wind and it being better to fish out of the worst of it.

However, now we are into May, the SW winds should become more frequent. They are a warmer wind which will encourage what fly life we have in the water, albeit small in size, into hatching, mating and subsequently dying. Life's full cycle for the Midge and many of their two-winged comrades. Also, this is the time of year when the majority of 'pond life' joins nature's eternal cycle. The whole process inevitably produces a lot of 'edible debris'... for the Trout... body shucks, eggs, pupae, fry etc. All of which is food for Trout. Add to that any edible content that gets washed into the reservoir from over ground or streams and of course potentially the habitation of Daphnia, a bonus item and high on the Stillwater Trout menu!

All this 'debris' gets carried by the movement of wind and water onto the downwind banks or the Dam. This is why from this month through Summer on a warm wind I recommend that you follow it and check out those downwind areas for foraging fish. Especially the Dam. The oxygenated water hitting the concrete not only invigorates the fish but also contains plenty of food.

Another wind quirk at Bewl is because of its shape and terrain with hills, straights, creeks and bays. The wind is apt to be in different directions dependent on where you are. What may appear to be a North Westerly in the Main Bowl may well be a Westerly at Rosemary Lane and Tinkers Marsh. There were times when I used to go to a bank in the early days thinking I was going to have to punch a line into the wind only to find I had a favourable left to right!

### TACTICS & LOCATION

The fish are well spread out around all of the Reservoir with a concentration of fish at Rosemary Lane and the Main Bowl. Some days they are feeding and will take Bait or Fly imitation. Other days they prefer the 'colour' and the movement of a 'lure'. Inevitably on some days they won't take anything. Fortunately, on most days they will take both!!!

For Fly rods, Floating lines have done well especially with a mixture of Colour and Natural flies. Personally, I have mostly gone with a Fast Glass Intermediate line a Booby or FAB on point, Nymph on middle dropper and small Blob on top dropper. But really the fly is not critical. Once located the Trout are quite willing to attack but beware, they are still in 'pods', groups of 4 or 5 fish which can often result in hooking two at a time. A 'double up'!

So, make sure you have leaders with adequate strength to contain the hit. I don't use anything less than 10lb at Bewl at this time of year.

### STOCKING

Stocking is regular and on schedule. Head Ranger Dan Baker is hoping to get another consignment into Bewl next week and hopes to 'trickle stock' around the water by boat. Sometimes this is not always possible, but it is his intention to try on this next delivery.

The week ahead is looking good with some fine weather but not too hot so sport should be good...

Tight lines for next week.

Ray F.

Below.

Weekends are always popular!!

