

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 26th May 2023

by Ray French

Bewl has fished well this week for all methods despite the continued blustery NE wind and bright sun making it difficult at times on the 'Fly', especially out in the Main Bowl! Having said that, Bewl hosted an AMFC Group One fly fishing league match last Saturday in similar conditions when 30 anglers caught 183 Trout for an average of 6.1. Of that number over 60 were released.

Because of the wind the majority of boats, including Any Method, took shelter from the Dam and caught. Those that could handle the wind out in the middle were rewarded later in the day with extra fish, so it was worth the effort. Overall, it was an excellent catch return in the circumstances with no blanks!

The fantastic fishing of the previous week at Rosemary Lane was not as good last weekend due to many of fish that had stayed on from the previous stocking finally moving away from the Rosemary Dam. I say many, but there are still a lot of Trout remaining up there. They are well spread out and can be tricky to find but are definitely there, I saw some on Tuesday. Those that did leave are now along Bewl Straight and being caught in the Creeks and Bays as well as the open water and not in any one spot, so again it pays to keep moving.

This is the same for most of Bewl at the moment, especially Hook Straight, where a lot of fish previously stocked up the very top, have found their way back to Seven Pound Creek and the old Cages area. In fact, there are fish spread out all the way from there to the Dam that have not really been fully exploited as yet. And to keep you right up to date, the Stocking boat has been up Hook Straight to the top again this week so it has to be worth a look!

STOCKING 'SURPRISE'...

The Good news for the Bank Holiday Weekend is that there has been a further stocking on Tuesday by boat to all parts of the reservoir so there will be no shortage of fish. Reported earlier in the week on Facebook with pictures, the surprise is that two extra species of Trout have been introduced. Along with 1500 Rainbows, 500 Tiger Trout and 500 Spartic Trout have gone in!!

Both the Tiger and the Spartic varieties will give a good account of themselves and fight hard, and of course there are still a number of 'Blue' Trout still to be caught albeit the 'Blue Trout' competition is now over.

FISHING

The fish are free rising and abundant at this time of year and not only close to the banks/woods but are now out in the vast area of open water especially all that which you can see from the boat jetty.

When high in the water the Trout will often seem to be moving up wind, a point worth remembering in Spring, Summer and Autumn. But beware, they are not always travelling up to the top of the wind, often they are only travelling short distances and in fact are only going in large circles to stay on a hatch or food area!

This week the fish have been taken high in the water although their actual swimming depth is difficult to say as the water is so clear. But when a cloud passes over the sun they are up and taking on the surface. When the sun dominates, they are taking on average between 1ft and 4ft down. I have been using Fast Glass Intermediate most of the time with a small Booby on point and a couple

of droppers, but a Floater would probably do as good or maybe better. Most of the Any Method guys have been a mixture of Floats and Spinners but struggle a bit when the fish are 'topping'.

As I said earlier the fishing is good and it will be even better when the wind swings round to the South and is warmer. This will encourage flies to hatch on the water and fish to feed. They are feeding now but not in great numbers. Having said that, I was fishing on Tuesday off the wind in a ripple at Chingley Point having stopped on tour to check it out, and as soon as a cloud went over the Sun for more than half a minute, the fish were up and onto something. I managed four fish there in a fairly short time by taking off the middle dropper and replacing the top dropper with another small Booby leaving just the two flies, waiting for a cloud, and then casting to anything that moved. I didn't have time to switch to 'Dries' so improvised with Boobies as the next best thing. A cast to a disturbance in the ripple and an immediate straightening of the leader brought a response and reward. However, it was not long before the fish disappeared but it was good fun while it lasted. I didn't kill them so I never found out what they were on, but I suspect small black midge. Fishing is very much about capitalising on opportunity especially on a sun and wind day and of course you need to be on fish...often a large slice of luck.

BEWL HOT SPOTS

Difficult to pin-point particular 'Hot Spots' at Bewl at the moment because of the continuous stocking. The fish are moving on the wind and of course are getting caught in large numbers. But here is a list of areas worth trying that over the years have built up a reputation for catch consistency.

Hook Straight

The Three Rivers, Browns Inlet (both top of Hook Straight), Stone Bay, Bramble Point, the Cages, Hook House, Belgrano Bay, the Green Bank and Beauman's Point.

The Main Bowl

The Playground, The Aqua Park - (Canoe Club Corner), the noDam, Chingley Dam Corner, Chingley Point.

Copen's Reach area

The Nose, Monty's Seat, Ferry Point.

Bewl Straight

Ferry Point, the Gorse Bushes, No Name Bay, Hatherell's Bay, Dunstars Bay, Goose Creek, The Oaks, Rosemary Lane and Tinkers Marsh.

FINAL THOUGHT....

There is no doubt that Spring provides the very best of Trout fishing at Bewl. The fish are free rising and abundant at this time of year and close to the banks/woods as well as being out in open water and on the move. Especially in the vast area of water you can see from the boat jetty. So, you can either anchor or drift in your favourite places or seek and explore Bewl's back waters in some of the most picturesque scenery in Sussex.

Not for nothing has Bewl Water always been known as... 'The Jewel of the South'

Tight lines and enjoy the week.

Ray F.