

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 28th April 2023.

by Ray French

The cold variable winds and rain have dampened the fishing a bit this week. What we really need is a switch to warmer climes to herald the prelude to fry hatches and Summer. Having said that pretty much all the boats were out last weekend, and it is likely to be the same this week.

Also, this weekend Bewl Water hosts an English National Fly-Fishing qualifying round. Fished two up in drifting boats, anglers are competing to reach the England National Final later in the year where they will compete to represent Team England on the International circuit next season. Bewl Water has enjoyed repeated success with Anglers representing England over the years and I wish them all the very best.

It is with that in mind, and in fairness to those competing, I will not be so informative on my personal fly-fishing experiences this week other than to say we did a lot better this Wednesday than when sitting in torrential rain and a freezing wind last Friday.

One thing I will say though is that given the popularity of Bewl fishing at the weekend, especially by the Any Method anglers who prefer to anchor rather than drift to ply their sport, it is such a shame to hold such an important event for Fly rods on a Saturday or Sunday when the water is packed. I appreciate the arguments against a change but there are many mid-week comps these days and to fish Bewl mid-week is a totally different and much fairer experience. Those who fish the 'Grand Max' Team competition each year on a Wednesday can vouch for that as can the weekday regulars and visitors. I am sure there would be more entries too.

So yes, as I said earlier, the fishing has slowed a tad mostly due to the weather and obviously there has been a lot of fish taken out. Talking to Head Ranger Dan Baker, he confirmed that he will be providing another stocking soon, probably next week, weather and stock permitting.

### FISHING

Although not as 'silly' as the first few weeks, there are still plenty of fish being caught to all styles albeit the more experienced rods are showing the way in turns of full bags. Last week I said that the fish were moving higher in the water and that some are beginning to move away from the banks. After this week I can endorse that by my personal experience and by talking to others. Out with JT on Wednesday it turned out to be a really good days fishing, albeit aided by a modicum of local knowledge and a huge slice of luck!

Basically, we did a 'Cook's Tour' of a few of Bewl's known hot spots and hit the jackpot. We found a pod of fish that for an hour fed avidly until spreading out and moving off. Bewl is like that at the moment, you can drift and fish a lot of water with little reward then bump into a shoal and fill your boots. Alternatively, you can anchor and wait for shoal to bump into you!

What I will say is that early doors we had been fishing down a bit on lines mostly in the cold wind. However, the shoal we encountered were more off the wind in a mild ripple and taking within the top 2ft.

I caught on Booby, Blob, Nymph and Buzzer so I don't think the fly is critical. As often happens early afternoon in Spring when the temperature drops, so do the fish, noticeable by their absence. We normally call it a day anyway about 3pm and did so on Wednesday. We did, however, drift across the main Bowl last thing. I was packing up, but John continued to fish. During that drift John did have

a series of quick snatches. No conversions, but definite interest and most certainly fickle Trout. He was fishing slow on a slow drift, at least it is another indication of fish out in open water. Again, he wasn't fishing that deep but below the depth of the taking fish earlier.

The Any Method lads that were out on Wednesday caught but not as well as the Fly rods. Having said that there were not many of them out. I did see a few bank anglers and I am sure they did ok, the banks are fairly consistent at the moment with fish quite prepared to come in very close with cloud cover, especially in a light wind. Well worth covering from a boat too but stealth is the key when approaching.

I think with expected cloud cover, this weekend should fish well but success will need patience and a bit of what we had, a slice of luck!!

Tight lines, to you all.  
Ray F.

Below: Always likely at Bewl, a double up.

