

BEWL WATER FLY FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 5th May 2023.
by Ray French.

Bewl has fished really well this past week, apart from Wednesday, when the cold East wind and bright sun put the fish right off. The best tactic from boat was to get out of the wind, anchor the boat, or both! However, that was not the case over last week's holiday weekend when there was plenty of fish for all!!!

The fish are now relatively high in the water as the weather warms and giving both the Spinner and Fly boys a run for their money. Once again, the majority of boats were out and almost certainly will be this week with a bonus holiday on Monday, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Having said that, midweek can be almost the opposite where you can pick a boat up fairly easily with acres of room to fish as and where you please. Bewl boats and fishing is available every day of the week at this time of the year, and such is the size of Bewl's fleet it is usually a matter of just turning up on the day. And of course, there is plenty of bank for those who prefer it.

STOCKING BONANZA!!!!

Bewl stocking continues to keep pace with this frantic season by ensuring a good head of fish are regularly bought in. Spring is always a busy time and so another load went in from the Lodge apron last Sunday evening. And yes, more good news from Head Ranger Dan Baker is that a further stocking is due next week, this time at the ever-popular Rosemary Lane end of the Reservoir. So, we have now had all the main areas of the Reservoir at least stocked twice. Of course, the fish move and get caught, but by spreading the stocking many will filter off from the drop areas and spread out which they have been visibly doing over the past week!

Certainly, on the cloudy days the fish are becoming more evident now in the Main Bowl. They are on the move and breaking surface. Not that many yet, however, for the majority are still swimming at about 4-8ft due mostly to the cold East/North winds. But off the wind in light ripple or flat calm, or as I say in cloud, they are about...

TACTICS

At this time of year with plenty of fresh stock it is not so critical what you present on your line albeit bait, lure, or fly. If you can present either at the correct depth and the weather conditions are acceptable, the fish will take it. I was watching a couple of Any Method boats the other day anchored off Chingley to see if and how they were catching. Two methods were employed, float with bait and Spinner. Actually, the guys I watched were not catching quickly but now and again a net would go out to a fish. Surprisingly, the Spinner was the most successful. I thought after the Winter the Trout may still be a bit sluggish and prefer to cruise and forage. But no, a nice medium retrieve was quite acceptable, but then of course these were fresh Stockies and more than likely starving!! Pity really, because the AM's using float and bait on up to maximum 12ft leaders can often give a useful and accurate visual to fish depth. Unless the fish are knowingly deep when they use a 'Slider' float.

On the fly, the line is very much your choice with floating and slow sink lines being the most popular, especially in an anchored boat or from the bank. From drifting boats, it is always a matter of wind speed. Flat calm or light ripple is not a problem, but to hold a steady drift in a wind it's best to use 'Drogue' as a water parachute.

Again, at this time of year Flies are not that important. They are taking almost anything. Depth, speed, and the weather are the main criteria so plan your approach accounting for the wind direction and temperature. SW winds are normally the warmest and most regular winds at Bewl with East and North being the coldest. A South Westerly wind more or less blows up from Hook Straight and into the Dam.

Having said that, the shape and topography of Bewl allows plenty of opportunity to get out of the wind and rarely does prohibit the boats from going out.

Looking at the next few days with showers, cloud and intermittent sun, it looks to be good fishing weather with the Trout continuing rise into the upper level. May is normally a top month for Trout Fishing so get on down and enjoy the Coronation on Bewl, it could be a day to remember for you as well as the King! 🏰

Good fishing and tight lines.
Ray F.