

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.

Week ending Friday 23rd June 2023.

by Ray French.

With the cold winds gone and the temperature rising, the current heatwave this week has finally caught up with the Bewl Trout and put them down for the greater part of the day. Mid-June is early for the water to warm this quickly but that it is reflected throughout the country. I was out this week and the water temp. at Bewl was reported as 23°C.

Anything over 20°C makes life uncomfortable for Trout and they go deeper to find a cooler level. This has obviously made the fishing challenging, especially for the Fly lads who like to fish high on the drift. It has not however significantly changed the Any Method anglers' approach, who regularly anchor and with fixed spool reels and can therefore easily fish at any depth that is required.

Over the years of fishing on the fly, I have found that for the best results when fishing deep at Bewl it is better to get the flies down quickly and then back to the surface slowly if practical, rather than the other way round. This can be done on a slow drift but for the best results there needs to be the minimum of boat and fly/line movement, meaning flat calm conditions or the boat at anchor is favourite. The big problem whether you be AM or Fly with deep water fishing is location!! Not a major problem for the regulars who over the seasons have established an insight into fish movement and their favoured spots, but for the new visitor it can be somewhat disconcerting.

Obviously, a fish finder would help and are a fantastic way of studying the lakebed for structure and inhabitants. But as much as I admire the technology involved in the equipment and the skill of the operator I still prefer to work it out by trial and error! (Go on, call me old fashioned.)

As a general rule my advice for Bewl when the Trout are deep is to start in the Main Bowl area, beginning round the outside on the bottom in a minimum of 20ft (7m), and work the depth from top to bottom. Or in my case bottom to top. Don't stay long with no action. Move, each time fishing deeper water.

However, even in mid-summer I have not caught fish deeper than 45ft (15m), at the Tower and the main excavation pit (adjacent to Bubbles) so the window of exploration is not that great considering Bewl has 90ft of water in places. I also prefer to include the bottom in my fishing window (as do the fish) so ideally I look to fish in water from 20 - 45ft deep. The only exception is when I fish a structure like the Tower, the Overspill, or the Dam.

There is of course water in excess of 40ft in many parts of Bewl, especially at the moment, so they are also worth trying. But as the water gets lower and the lake drains, the majority of Trout will eventually end up in the Main Bowl.

FRY

At this time of year there is major concentration of Pin and Jelly Fry in Bewl and although June is early, they are there in great numbers already. They were evident near the banks a couple of weeks ago but have now also moved out and down in the heat. The Trout will have followed them....

There are all sorts of Fry imitations for all methods, but on the Fly I find the Pearly Cormorant with either Black or Silver Grey Mallard wing with Red head excellent at Bewl, as is the Silver Invicta in the Autumn.

FORECAST

Ok, so the fishing is difficult and certainly favours the Any Method anglers at anchor with bait on float or bottom rig. But for the Fly boys and those on lures, low and slow is a tactic best adopted in the sun and high-water temperatures.

Do keep an eye on cloud cover though. Cloud and rain will bring them up especially if it drops the surface water temperature and there is food available.

The other thing that will bring them up is the Bubbles. I have asked Bewl about them this Summer and the likelihood of them being on permanently....

In fact, Bewl Water Fishing has little or no say in the running and administration of the Bubbles. They are under the exclusive control of Southern Water. Apparently the running costs of the machinery that provide the facility are very high and Southern Water only turn them on during drawdown when the lakes oxygen levels drop below a predetermined level. Having said that, the machinery and pipes that have for so long been under refit and annual disruption are now all tickety-boo and ready to run. Make of that what you will!!

FLIES

Below is an example of the types of set up I use fishing deep at Bewl during the Summer. Note, I tend to use small international size flies, for no reason other than a habit from competition days. But large flies, Gold heads, Snakes etc are also good and often better when fishing deep. And you don't need the heavy sinking lines for weighted flies. It's just a matter of preference.

Options on the FLY at Bewl include.

4 FLY RIG (Washing Line)

Point: Small Pink Candy-man or Cat's Whisker.

Mid Droppers: Two Pearly Cormorants.

Top Dropper: Small Tequila Blob.

Line: Fast sink long tip or Di7

2 FLY RIG

Two small Boobies 10ft Apart, 10ft to first dropper. (No takes, change to 5ft to first dropper.)

Point: Small Pink Candy-man or Cats Whisker

Top dropper: Small Tequila Booby.

Line: Booby 'Basher' Di8.or Di7

4 FLY RIG

Point and two droppers: Size 8 Buzzers. Claret. Black.

Top dropper: Small Tequila Blob.

Line: Booby 'Basher'. Di 8 or Floating line/ Tache. Or 3ft tip.

SUMMARY

One thing is for sure, there is still a lot of Trout in Bewl although this week's stocking was held back due to the rapid rise in water temperature. They will be held in reserve until conditions improve with rain, storm, or cloud.

From the boats....

Next week, if the hot spell continues, explore deeper and fish slower. At the same time keep a watchful eye out for cloud and/or shoals of Fry. Sometimes, for no reason, the fry will surface

especially near the Dam and Towers and with them the Trout will follow. Also, with the Reservoir around 96% full and many of Bewl's banks steep, there is no need to go too far out to cover 20ft of water. Chingley Wood being a case in point. Be positive in the Sun, you know where the fish will be....

Long ago 'in the day' on the fly, we used to fish 4 heavy Buzzers on floating lines in the Main Bowl, with as long a leader as could be cast, fished almost static with or without the 'Tache' and we caught plenty!!

Have a good week and tight lines.

Ray F.