

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 21st 2023.
by Ray French.

In the cloud the fish have been showing themselves more over the past week, mostly in the Main Bowl and entry to the two main straights.

The Any Method rods have been enjoying the most success, especially those bait fishing with floats. The Spinning and fly rods have surprisingly struggled somewhat, even though on some days the conditions have looked almost perfect! The only reason I can give for the fish's relative disinterest in a moving fly or lure is that much of the water temperature is still uncomfortably warm, and the Trout are somewhat lethargic.

As I said the Bait and Float boys are making it work, but so far I haven't. I usually do in the summer, especially with the Di8 and 4 heavy Buzzers. I have tried this method each week fishing deep but so far have had no real success nor have I any idea why. So, this week we decided to try a bit higher.

I was out with good friend of long-standing Chris Nunn, and I have to admit we found it hard. I had a Trout early at about 10ft on a tiny Tequila Blob on dropper using a DI5 line. Chris started on Fast Glass and then DI5 using similar flies. Although we both had several 'taps' at different depths, apart from one other solid take I had, that was about it... That is apart from one frenzied couple of minutes when a heavy black cloud darkened the sky. We were well out in the Main Bowl and with the cloud came a slight increase in the wind which ruffled the steady ripple into a choppy wave. With that a pod of at least three Trout disturbed the water some 30 yds in front of us...Panic!!

The trouble was that we were fishing sinking lines with mixed wets and Tequila Mini-Blobs... Oh, for a Booby on point!! We had just one opportunity at them and launched our lines. Yes, we hit the mark ok. Tightened up into contact with the flies and retrieved with short pulls and Chris with a fast fig8. Both of us made contact with the Trout and we got a couple of half-hearted tugs, but would our lines tighten up, no way!! And that was it, off they went as fast as they came. I did switch to Floater and washing line for a while hoping for another pod, but we lost the cloud and at 3pm we came in, my usual time.

SUMMARY

The water clarity this week was pretty good. This is fine when the fish are on the move and prepared to chase because they can see most everything around them. However, when they are merely mooching about at depth in their comfort zone, and not evident from the boat, it is still difficult to assess just how deep they are and therefore is very much trial and error.

Of course, on the fly in a drifting boat, (our preferred way to fish), is extremely difficult at this time of year especially at Bewl, which is a deep reservoir. It is often better to drop the hook in your favoured area and fish static at various depths from top to bottom. Certainly, our evidence of action showed that the fish are prepared to rise in numbers when conditions are right. However, that is only in heavy cloud suggesting they are not overly deep at the moment. Possibly not much beyond 20ft which may be why I am not contacting them at the usual 25-40ft on the Di8.

Whatever, it's always nice to be out fishing in a boat but very frustrating at this time of the year... that's fishing!!

Enjoy your week and tight lines.
Ray F.