

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 28th July 2023.

by Ray French

This week has continued with mixed weather cooling the water a tad, but apparently still showing warm at 22°C. This explains the constant lethargy in our fish compared to the more Northern reservoirs that are some 4° below that. There are frequent sightings of Bewl Trout especially early morning and when there is cloud, but they are not easy to catch.

Again, this week the Any Method boats have been more successful than on the fly. That is often the case in high Summer when small fry style Spinners wound erratically, or static bait fishing with a small weight and sliding float are the 'go to' methods. Having said that they are finding it challenging too, but of the methods they are the most productive.

However, us Fly boys can get close to the float method by using a floating line and fishing what is called the 'Bung' (basically a float attached to the top dropper on fly leader containing 3 or 4 droppers and fished static). However, because of the leader make up, this method is only practical to a depth of around 17ft max because the Bung will not pass through the Fly rods top ring. To fish deeper at reservoirs and fish in a vertical plane like the Bung, I use a fast-sinking line.

Fast sink lines that are marked at 10ft increments have in recent years at Bewl been one the deadliest summer methods for catching Trout on the fly. The set up is to use four heavyweight Buzzers on a Di8 fast sinking line which is lowered to the bottom, or whatever depth you want. With a fig8 the flies are brought very slowly to the surface. A take can come at any time and the line markings will indicate the depth. Once you know that it's game on! However, the key to this method is for the line to remain vertical. Obviously to do this the water needs to be flat calm or the boat anchored or tied to a buoy.

Certainly, the Di8 and Buzzer method is good when the Trout are lying deep in the cooler water or hard on the carpet, but as I said last week influenced by the success of the AM float guys, I believe that a good percentage of Trout are now not that deep. I reckon there are quite a few moving up and down with the light level and I would guess in the top 20ft. I say that because this week I was out on my own and mooched about with two rods set up. One, the Fast Glass loaded with a mixture of small Blobs and Cormorants, the other the Di8 with Buzzers to start, alternating between the two. During the course of the morning I covered most of the options I have mentioned and more with the two rods but with scant reward. However, I was seeing a few jumpers albeit it was bright sunshine and blue sky!

During the morning I had seen a couple of guys standing and spinning on long drifts catch a couple and with a fish bag showing over the side, they could have caught more. They were fan casting from both front and back of the boat on their own out in the middle of the main Bowl. It was a slow drift on Wednesday, at least it was in the morning. Those guys gave me an idea. Off came the Buzzers on the Di8 and on went 18ft of leader with a small white Minky Booby (60mm) tied on a dropper 4ft from the line tip and the same on the leader point. These are my Bewl favourites in Winter. They catch a lot of fish for me at any depth but rarely come out for a swim before October due to fly size and competition fishing but then... when needs must...

I started a drift from Ferry Point to Chingley Point which on a SW wind is one of Bewl's top drifts. I moved the drogue to the bows so that the boat drifted engine first. The idea is to cast as far out from the side as you can and count the line down. As you count down the boat drifts so that on retrieve the flies come back 'round the bend' as the line arcs. That way by changing the countdown

and speed of retrieve you can cover a lot of water and depth, at least to 20ft. The key here is the direction change of the flies as they arc round to the boat. I think it was called Northampton style in the day. It is still a good searching method and has got me out of jail a few times. Best done though when you are fishing alone, with two in a boat using Di8 in this way, one of you is likely to get decapitated...there is not usually much of a cry, but it makes an awful mess in the boat!!

Anyway, back to the plot....

I had carefully watched the two guys who had caught spinning. The second fish I saw caught was from a cast of about 50 yds with an 8 second countdown and medium retrieve. Oh yes, he jerked the rod tip a couple of times. The fish took about halfway back at I would say about 5ft down. Not deep at all really but then they were varying the retrieve each time, and given the water is reasonably clear the Trout could have seen the spinner from 10ft.

Well for me the change of tactics paid off...I did manage to hook two fish on 3 drifts across the Ferry Point to Chingley stretch which took about an hour. One came on the first drift about 100yds from Chingley which I returned on purpose. The other was on the third drift about halfway which I returned out of human error, about 5 yards from the net. Each drift I was retrieving just to keep up with the line with two long hard pulls as the line came round the bend to get the point fly down. The take was after the second pull down and gave quiet a feisty fight considering the water temperature. The second fish came on the dropper by the fly line on a slow roly-poly after a 10 second count, so that was obviously deeper. At 2pm with a darkening sky and rising wind I called it a day and with a punnet of Strawberries for company, bought along the A21, it was back to the M25 and home.

#### SUMMARY

Well, I got some action. Not the way I thought I would but there you go. The method seems sound but then it always was, I shall certainly use it again if alone. Obviously, the fishing is not easy especially down here in the warm Southeast but there is always a chance of reward, the fish are there. The two fish I hooked could have been as a result of the method, the flies, or just the time of day. That's fishing!

Have a good week and tight lines.

Ray F.

