

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.
Week ending Friday 7 July 2023
by Ray French.

What a difference a couple of days of cloud, some rain and a cooling wind makes! Yes, this week has seen Bewl's Trout back on the hunt. Maybe not all of them but plenty to get some good sport especially in the Main Bowl for all methods. It just shows how quick they can react when water temperature and conditions improve. Plenty of Cloud and a brisk Westerly wind has been the key and both should continue through the weekend.

I was out yesterday with George Baker, another Bewl regular, and we had a really good few hours mostly on the drift. I say mostly because such was the wind which gusted quiet strongly at times and a wet squall late in the morning we tied to a buoy for a bit of respite.

The wind direction was basically diagonal across the bowl from the boat jetty to Chingley corner, and that was the course of our first drift of the morning. Last week we had concentrated on fishing 'every which way' at depth, mostly on the dark side with heavy lines, but to no avail. This week with conditions as they are we chose to fish much higher in the water.

I fished Fast Glass 40 'plus' line with a Candyman Booby on point, Pearly Cormorant on middle dropper and Tequila Blob on top dropper. All size 12 barbless. George used Floating Line, small Gold Head Cat with White Mink tail, Pearly Corm. and Tequila on top dropper.

Somewhat apprehensive, we started the drift from about 150m out from the jetty where the water was clear. It was a bit coloured close in due the wind on the bank...the sun was out; the cloud was building, and the drogue was set...

THE FISHING

After last week's blank to say we were surprised is a bit of an understatement, for within 5 minutes George's rod arched over, mirrored by a leaping Trout on the point fly. Unfortunately, our delight was short lived as this was one-nil to the fish, it slipped the hook!

The drift was a long one with very little action other than an occasional pluck and the site of the odd fish jumping. Very little action that is until my line tightened and arced to the right ripping a furrow in the water as it stayed high. Fish on! Not a big fish but it fought well and went into the net with some relief. It was my first for several hours of fishing. A good start!

We continued drifting for most of the morning, getting plucks and occasionally getting a soft take that produced a fish although they didn't all stick. We then bumped into a pod and it was hectic for a few minutes. I had a 'double up' that I managed to boat and a 'triple' that broke at the leader/line join. Yes, a 'triple'. Not unusual at Bewl when they pod up and I suspect it was probably operator error due to a faulty knot.

During the morning I had switched the point fly to a Tequila Fab. They definitely wanted colour and although both of us had quite a few more pulls and tugs which was great, by the end of play at 2pm when the rain came, we didn't have that many to the boat. I had five and lost as many and George had four and lost about the same. There was a definite lull during the rain for me, but George changed his Gold Head Minky Cat for a heavier weighted version and caught his last two at about 4-5m deep.

SUMMARY

A really good morning and in total contrast to last week. All our fish came to a slow retrieve. None came on the pull and after a sunny start the cloud came in very quickly and the wind increased a bit but so did the action, although apart from the Pod we found the takes were very tentative. And although I was using size 12 Blobs they were tied very small. Normally these will take the finicky fish but not on Wednesday. But then at least we had fish in front of us.

The majority of the water at Bewl is very clear at the moment except near the banks where the wind stirs it up, keep an eye out for dirty water. A lot of people don't bother but often it is the difference between fish or a blank especially when clean water is an option.

This weekend should be good fishing. I doubt the water temp. will increase much with the wind and any cloud will be a bonus. The fish should be active and on the move. However, as I said earlier, I don't think all of them are up and about but at least there are active fish in the Bowl. I haven't heard reports from other areas so can't give a genuine comment.

For the Any Method rods it may well be good on small spinners as the Trout are largely on fry. Bait and Float is a good option though with Trout in the top 5m. Apparently that has been the choice of the more successful AM rods.

Whatever, enjoy the fishing next week and tight lines.
Ray F.

Below: 'Double up'

