

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 4th August.
by Ray French

The cooler water and wind have brought the water temperature down this past week, sufficient to encourage the trout to move higher in the water and provide improved sport for both Any Method and Fly. It is still challenging, like most waters in August, but catches have definitely improved especially when there is cloud rather than bright sun.

I was out again this week in the sun and mixed cloud and fished to around 2.30 with regular mid-week boat partner John Turner. I managed three fish on the fly and had a couple of swirls. John had a couple of takes which unfortunately didn't stick.

My fish came late morning when there was increasing cloud cover. Two of them came to a short dressed size 12 Tequila Blob pulled reasonably fast on an Intermediate line just under the surface. My Tequila is very small and ideal for fishing slow and to wary Trout, which has been the method of late. However, those two were prepared to chase. They haven't been doing that which has reflected in the drop in numbers of Trout to the Spinning rods in the hot weather. I did quite a bit of pulling yesterday when the cloud covered but those two fish were the only ones to take.

John was using the washing line set-up of Blob, nymph, and Booby on point searching the depths, switching between intermediate and the faster sinking DI5. I said in my last report that the best of the Any Method sport has been to the float and bait lads and a couple of them gave me the lead to my third fish.

It was just after lunch when we were on a long drift in the Main Bowl about 300m out from Chingley Point when I noticed an anchored boat with a couple of guys, one of which was playing a fish, which he landed. We eventually drifted to them and as we passed, he was into another fish. Anyway, after a few words in "Pigeon" English, and a bit of hand and arm gesticulating from the boat partner, I gathered that was the second fish they had caught from that spot although they had missed a couple. Prior to that they had not caught. More significantly, the takes were in in the top meter.

Well, I had been fishing high in the water most of the morning and only caught two on the pull in the cloud and wind. The wind had now dropped right down, the cloud had thickened, and these boys have started to catch on bait. "Oh, for some bait." But it wasn't just the bait, the other big difference was their float and bait were static, our boat and flies were moving.

Ok, so we fish static! I already had a 'Bung' and three Buzzers set up in my box for the Midland reservoirs, so I changed to a floating line and put that on. I have never been a Bung avid, certainly not at Bewl, never really needed to down here in recent years. But hey, I know how good they can be and it seemed an ideal time to try it. I would normally either straight line the Buzzers or hang them on the 'Washing Line' using a Booby and Floater. Which is what John switched to.

We continued the drift, albeit slow, and was not that far away from AM boat when my Orange Bung dipped and shot off, followed by a jump and splash. The fish had taken the top dropper just 3ft from the Bung. That was my third.

We did another half hours fishing before calling it a day. No more takes but even so that had certainly given us food for thought for next week. Obvious really, fish a static and suspended presentation covering the top 12ft with flies representing a food form...

SUMMARY

Difficult days yes, but by no means impossible. Apparently quite a few anglers on holiday out in the boats have picked up fish, when some of Bewl's more regular rods have struggled... but that's the magic of fishing... sometimes the thinking anglers mind gets cluttered by experience when all it needs is to chuck it out and pull it back!

The fish definitely came high with the cloud cover but were obviously moving up a down with the sun. I was talking to a guy on the boat jetty. He had one fish and some takes in the sun on a spinner at 3 meters. But then he had fished at that depth and deeper most of the time.

The other thing is that it is well worth taking long drifts out in the deep water. The fish are well spread out and not in tight shoals anymore but at the most threes and fours and mostly singles. The water is also clearer away from the sides and I have found that has made a difference.

Whatever, have a good week and tight lines...
Ray French.

Below: John Turner.

John has not been well of late and yesterday was his first day back, so he was understandably short of practice. 🤔 He had what we all know and love as a leisurely day, carefully undoing a succession of line and leader tangles. We have all been there. It is good to see him feeling better and back at the helm.

Here he is thinking of what might have been!

