

## BEWL WATER FLY FISHING REPORT

Week ending Fri 20 Oct. 2023

by Ray French.

Easy to report this week as from last Friday (13<sup>th</sup>) the recently stocked fish started to put in an appearance, and last weekend provided good sport for both Any Method and Fly rods. By Monday there were fish showing and being taken in most areas. The heavy frosts, combined with a cold Northerly wind, had not only cooled the water and turned the fish on but greatly helped the clarity which is now very much improved.

Tuesday was good too, especially for the fly rods who were out in numbers practicing for the 'GRAND MAX' Team Invitation Flyfishing Match the following day. The fish were high in the water and as most were fishing 'Loch Style' from drifting boats, it was a matter of intercepting pods of moving fish! However, by late afternoon the fish did get 'picky', reflecting the rapidly dropping air pressure and a shift in the wind to the East, a prelude to Storm Babet which was nationally forecast for Wednesday!

### THE 'GRAND MAX'

The event was organised by Bewl Bridge Fly Fishers' Club and sponsored by Fordham & Wakefield, game fishing tackle specialists.

Wednesday, competition day, was really a day of two halves. The lull before the storm and the storm! The fishing for much of the day was challenging but rewarding...there were not many fish showing and sport was slow considering how many Trout we knew to be in there, although as always some found success and caught well.

Conditions in the morning were relatively calm albeit the wind increased a tad towards lunch, which was taken ashore at 1pm. At 2pm, play resumed with a spattering of rain, a rapidly increasing wind and heavy cloud...then the lights went out! The heavens opened and by mid-afternoon we had Storm Babet. Ever the brave? The competition continued but was cut to a 5pm finish. Yet still fish were caught even in the horrendous conditions. Not as much as previous days, but with a rod average of almost 3 results were surprisingly good.

### Competition Data

- \* 11 Teams. 66 Anglers.
- \* 179 Trout. Rod average 2.89.
- \* Largest fish 3lb 3oz.

- 1st. Team Seaguar
- 2nd. Walthamstow.
- 3rd. Flyfishing Forever

I am advised there is a full result list available on the BBFC website: [www.bewlbridgeflyfishers.com](http://www.bewlbridgeflyfishers.com)

I have to say that Kevin Parker (Bewl Senior Operations Manager) and his staff handled the day admirably controlling the admin, the weigh-in and the catering (Lunch and Dinner). Also special thanks to Dan Baker (Bewl Estate Manager) and his team for getting all the boats away and back safely twice on the day. Not easy at the best of times and certainly not in the evening when docking was done in extreme conditions. Well done.

## SUMMARY

For the Fly.

Popular rigs have been 'washing line' with black flies on droppers (Corms or Hoppers) with FABs or Boobies on Point or top dropper, orange being a popular colour. Retrieve to be whatever they want on the day so vary until successful.

For Any Method.

Bait will continue to catch as will Spinning using small lures rather than large. The fish are well spread out and close into some banks as well as being out in deep water. As for location, if you stand on the end of the boat jetty all the water you see to the left, right and in front of you is currently holding fish. If you get sun and a brisk wind, seek the least of the wind. During the last couple of days the wind has returned to its normal SW, lessened and warmed, bringing the Trout back high in the water and evident.

## FORECAST

Excellent fishing as the water cools, peaking when there is cloud cover and light winds. Today, (Friday 20<sup>th</sup>) it is overcast and apparently fishing well so it is looking really good for the weekend.

Obviously, it is best to book boats for the weekends. They fill up quickly with the fishing as it is. Weekdays, with Bewl's large boat fleet, it is not normally necessary but if you want to make sure then book!

Have a good week.

Ray French.