

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 1/12/23.

by Ray French.

BEWL BONANZA!!!

In recent seasons Autumn and Winter has fished well for Trout and this last week has seen the proof of that for both Any Method and Fly anglers.

Last week I mentioned that Bewl was providing a 'Prize Giving' day with free entry to all who purchased a day Boat & Fishing ticket for Sunday. Fished as 'Any Method', I can now report it was a huge success and once again a 'Full House' with the whole of Bewl's fleet on the water and Trout to 6lb+. It was not mass slaughter but very rewarding for the majority who managed to catch fish including quite a few limit bags. Of course, there were those who, shall we say, had a 'restful day' but I would expect that given the anglers were very much a blend of experienced and novice!

The quality and quantity of last weekend's fishing has carried on during this week but again it has had an element of 'Feast & Famine', with some doing well and others struggling. There is a lot of fish in Bewl at the moment, but it is also quiet a big reservoir with a lot of bays, coves and peninsulas for the fish to explore, especially now when the water is cold. Having said that, for those that know Bewl the regular 'Hot Spots' are giving sport. (See 'Summary' below)

Out on the Fly again this week with John H on what was a really good days fishing in the Sunshine and hardly any wind, perfect for what we were doing. Considering we only do half days we caught well, in fact John had his best bag for a few weeks. There were fish swirling in the almost flat calm, but few and far between. Anyway, we ignored those and went straight into winter mode like last week with two 'White Minky Boobies' on a 5ft leader. One on point and one on dropper 2ft from the fly line, which was a Di8 fast sinker for John and Di7 for me. Tactic, find 8-12ft of water, cast and retrieve by a very slow figure of eight and twitches, sometimes immediately and sometimes after half minute to ensure line and flies were hard on the bottom. NOTE. The important thing on this rig is to make the dropper at least 9 inches to the fly.

Opposite to last week John's Di8 out fished my Di7 at the start with John retrieving as soon as the flies landed, albeit slowly. His fish were taking well down but not on the bottom. Although my flies were going through the same area of water I was picking up less but hard on the bottom...until I changed lines to a Di8!!

NOTE. I tied both our leaders last week, they were exactly the same.

Having switched lines I started to catch more, again by starting the retrieve early. We did move about a bit in the boat and some places had fish and some were barren but at all times kept to the 8-12ft rule.

Lunch time we had a barren patch, maybe as a result of not being on fish or they were higher in the water. That was probably the case as there were more fish evident than before but not for long as by 1o'clock it started to get colder, and the fish disappeared. We then moved to Chingley Wood and picked up a few fish with the flies inched back hard on the bottom this time but again that dried up, coinciding with the rapid advance of huge black sky phasing out the sun. 2pm, time to go!

SUMMARY

What the Any Method anglers did show this week is how well Bewl is fishing at the moment, which has continued during the week. Obviously, there is a good head of fish which gives all anglers of all

methods confidence in the water. Even the Pike are on the hunt now in the cold weather with a 'bigun' landed this week, reported with picture this week on Facebook.

At least I know that I am not wasting my time, a feeling that is easy to achieve on a hot 'Dog Day' in mid-August. For me, it is very much a matter of keep moving, patience and fishing slow from the bottom up in max 15 ft of water.

BEST AREAS

Best areas this week have been within 60m of the banks in the following places:

- Bewl Straight from Chingley Point to Goose Creek.
- The Main Bowl, all round it including the Dam and Beauman's Point.
- 7lb Creek, Bramble Point, from Hook House up to the Dam including the Playground
- The Dam.
- Dam Corner - Chingley Wood.

Tight lines, have a good week.