

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Frid. 24/11/23.

by Ray French.

Another good week, with plenty of fish to be caught. However, I have to say the Any Method rods are doing far better than the Fly Rods, but then at this time of year I would expect them to. It is far easier to catch with the option of lure, bait or both than with a fly.... after all, no self-respecting fly is likely to come out in winter!

The fly rods are catching but not in great numbers. It has been very much right place, right time from the boats and even though the Trout have been evident by leaping and showing on the surface at times, they are not chasing as such and have been difficult to catch. They are also well spread out round the reservoir and have been seen just about everywhere. Ranger Rob Dixon did a grand Bewl tour in the Dory recently and reported seeing fish from Rosemary Lane and Tinkers Marsh, up Bewl Straight, and down to and including Hook Straight. Not in great numbers but nevertheless far reaching.

Having talked of the boats, those that have braved the banks have done well especially when the winds have been favourable. Earlier this week the North and then Westerly winds were favourable, from Bramble Point to the Dam with the Playground being the hot spot for those that attended.

I said in my last report that I had not caught in recent trips from the boat in water deeper than twelve feet, which has meant concentrating in the most part drifting along or onto a bank in both Straights and the edges of the Main Bowl including the dam wall. But apart from outside the Lodge I have not seen one bank angler on my travels although this Autumn that is where the Trout have been. I have also seen a lot more Any Method boats have wised up and spread further afield.

Anyway, after missing out last week I managed to get out with John T for a morning on Wednesday in the sun and flat calm. Not the easiest of conditions but certainly a trip that proved different to my last of a fortnight ago. I went out on what had become my 'go to' autumn set up of all black flies, two Cormorants and a small weighted Humongous on an Airflow 40+ Fast Glass, my favourite Bewl fly line.

However, after 3 hours cruising and drifting around neither of us had anything to show for our efforts, although I did lose one fish 10ft from the 'Oaks' bank at Rosemary Lane. We saw a few fish on our travels especially Bewl Straight, but they were 'singles' and extremely boat shy, strange.

It got colder late morning with less fish showing, so time for a change. Time to try out the winter tactic that has proved so good for so many at Bewl over the years. A fast sink line, on this occasion a Di 7, with two small Minky Boobies tied to a short leader of 5ft (2ft & 3ft), cast out and inched back along the bottom to the boat. The key is the slow retrieve which keeps flies just off the bottom but requires the boat to be static, in flat calm or anchored in a breeze. It is also a deadly method from the bank.

Having changed, the response was immediate. Yes, I know it is fairy tale stuff but, on this occasion, absolutely true. Within thirty minutes I had 3 fish, lost one and had several taps. John, who changed to similar also had a fish and a couple of taps. My best fish was a Rainbow pushing 5lb. It fought really well and one of my best of the season. I gave it to John for his tea! Then the fish just switched off, as they do, often!

We had got on the method too late, but it had shown that the Trout were now grubbing on the bottom, albeit a fortnight ago they were almost exclusively taking in the top 4ft. On Wednesday our fish and takes were in 10ft of water...we measured it!

#### SUMMARY

Plenty of fish although they are well spread out around the reservoir, so it does pay to move about. Some of the water is a bit coloured, especially in the areas where a muddy bank is exposed to the elements, so avoid the worst of it. Don't neglect fishing high in the water, that is a good starting point but if sport is slow or non-existent, try for the bottom feeders. Oh yes, I came off Black flies to catch today, my Minky Boobies were white!!!

#### STOCKING

There is to be further stocking this winter to top up what is already a good head of this fish, so look out for Bewl Water reports.

#### PRIZES THIS WEEKEND!!!

This Sunday at Bewl Water is COMPETITION DAY to all of those Boat fishing... ANY METHOD - ENTRY FREE!!! Including fly anglers.

Tight lines, Ray French.