

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

For week ending Frid. 3rd Nov '23

by Ray French

Last weekend fished well for both Any Method and Fly with most rods managing to catch. The main bowl was a favourite with a lot of fish favouring the dam and the Chingley Wood side.

This week has proved to be totally different with dropping air pressure and extreme weather which severely restricted the fishing especially the boats. Consequently, this week's report is shorter than usual but nevertheless up to date as I managed to get out this morning.

Today partner John T and I were on the water by 8.45 in bright sun, blue sky, and a slight SW wind. A window of opportunity this week that we decided to grab. It was, however, not ideal. The air pressure was still on the floor and the water was coloured as a result of big winds on exposed barren shorelines. There were a few boats out but the forecast for later was not good and as much as I love boat fishing my level of optimism was like the Barometer, pretty low. Anyway, out we went...

For most of the morning we drifted the main bowl, from one side to the other including bouncing the dam at regular intervals from 100m out to in. Gradually the cold wind picked up and with it a few clouds. There was nothing really happening...

Conclusion, find some clearer water and get out of the cold wind. I have often found at Bewl that our fish do not like a brisk cold wind and actually neither do I, so we sought the calmer waters of Ferry Point and Bewl Straight.

Immediately, it was obvious that the water was clearer in Bewl Straight. Not a lot but definitely clearer. We were packing up at lunchtime so spent the last hour and half drifting across and along Bewl Straight. Much more pleasant and surprisingly quiet rewarding... I managed to catch four fish which should have been five but one of a 'double up' came off at the net. I had a couple of taps too which were encouraging.

We timed our finish well too because we packed up as the skies got darker and it looked to be raining over Wilf's mother's at Wadhurst, which arrived as we stepped ashore at the jetty!

### SUMMARY

Not an easy morning but we didn't expect it to be. I know the Main Bowl has plenty of fish in it but they didn't want to play this morning. The cold wind, cloudy water and low air pressure put them off big time.

So, the key to improved chance was calmer and clearer water. We chose Bewl Straight which on the big SW winds of the last few days would have had an element of shelter. The new stock fish are now well spread out and so it is certainly worth moving about if you're struggling. Equally the fish could come back on the feed in the main bowl over the weekend and the water purity should get better fairly quickly if the wind eases.

### METHOD

I went out on Di5 first thing in the sun with white Minky Booby on point, green rib Cormorant on middle dropper and Tequila blob top dropper. I fished the depths alternating between Boobies and Snakes on the point. I changed to Fast Glass line when we went to Bewl Straight and to all black Flies with two Pearl Cormorants on the droppers and a Humongus on point. My fish came to all three flies and took at between 1ft and 4ft on mixed retrieves.

John went out on a Hover line, white Booby on point, Cormorant in middle and Tequila blob on top dropper. He stayed on that all morning but did change to same as me near the end. Unfortunately he did not catch this morning, but some days the fish do favour only one end of the boat, today it was the bows!

#### ANY METHOD

Have been doing well on small Lures and/or bait and Float of late at anchor or tied up. Again, it pays to move around and seek cleaner water although at anchor it's not so important to get off the wind although those out today did. I think they struggled a bit today but then they may well have caught this afternoon.