

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 19th January
by Ray French

A morning's fishing in beautiful sunshine, a light ripple and 9 fresh fighting Rainbows to the boat...what more could an angler ask!!

Bewl has continued to produce some excellent returns in the past week for those that have braved the cold and found the fish that even now in January are quite happy to switch on for 3 or 4 hours a day when the weather is favourable. Having said that, like most waters, finding the fish is really the key to success and in winter they tend to settle and do not move as much as other times of the year which can make it very frustrating.

Each year certain places seem to attract and fish better than others, and on the big waters they are not always the same places. Bewl is no exception and these last few weeks there have been three main areas that have produced consistently. Chingley Wood, Beauman's Point and from the Lodge up to the Dam.

METHODS

Firstly, low and slow or static is the favoured retrieve for all methods. The Trout are not really chasing and prefer to find & take your offering rather than chase something that flashes past them. For the Any Method boys that means slow spinning or bait ledgered or on a float. For the Fly anglers, a static or slow figure of eight retrieve.

I say this regularly but the taking fish generally are keeping to the edges and definitely in the areas I mentioned above, keep within 70m of the banks or less. I have seen very few fish caught further out and although boats seem to be out at Beauman's Point, there is a shallow Ridge/Spit that runs out from the Point providing a popular haven for both Trout and Angler at the moment.

*Note

Almost everyone at this time of year anchors or ties up. Not only is it easier to fish the speed and method you need, but you can keep your back to the wind and weather. As I normally fish Lochstyle on the fly, in winter not having to drive back up the drift each time into a 20mph Northerly wind by using the anchor seems infinitely preferable!

FISHING TODAY...

As I said at the beginning, a really good morning's fishing today, anchored about 60m off the Playground. There has been fish patrolling up and down this area to the Dam all winter but obviously they come and go so patience is a virtue, but depth is the key.

This week for fish taken on the bottom, 12ft was the optimum depth. We had started closer to the bank and got nothing so moved further out into about 15-18ft of water and got nothing before settling on mid-way at 12ft. The differences sound negligible, but we have struggled often this winter knowing the fish have been on the bottom to find success by changing depth, often by just a few feet. Actually, there was about an hour where I was catching hard on the bottom on a DI8 and caught whilst John was fishing with two small Snakes on a DI3 and caught a couple at mid-water. Given that the water colour at the moment is not good at all it is a wonder the fish are seeing the flies...but they are!!

SUMMARY

Winter fishing is rarely a fish a chuck and as always, some catch and some don't. However, there are still plenty of Trout to fish for after the recent stocking and another month to do it. Oh, and don't worry about the sun, this time of year the fish respond favourably.

PIKE!!

There have been Pike caught this week apparently but at the moment I have no information as to size or numbers.

DATES

This Season ends on Sunday 25th of February and opening day for the new Season is Thursday 14th March.

Picture below.

John T. lifts a plump Rainbow out from the Playground in about 12ft of water.

