

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 5/1/24

by Ray French

Hi, and a happy new year!

What with Christmas, family, festivities, rain and some really big winds, I have not had much opportunity to get out on Bewl for about 10 days... but I know quite a few who have and for those that took the opportunity, the fishing has been pretty good. There has been some nice fish being caught including a 9lb+ Rainbow off Beuaman's Point from a boat, one of a few 'biggies' put in at a recent stocking.

Sport has not favoured any particular discipline with Any Method and Fly both doing well but as always some catch more than others, and some struggle. A lot depends on the weather, especially in winter, and especially this week with the rain and gales. Boat partner John Turner and I couldn't get out on Wednesday due to the weather, but the forecast looked better for today (Friday), so we came down.

The light but chilling Westerly wind and heavy cloud threatened rain but this time the forecast got it right and we never had any. It was quite busy today with about 16 boats out but then it has been busy on favourable conditions, and it is looking good for the next few days. Having said that, at first sight the water looked filthy. This is not really surprising considering the flood water Bewl has taken in the last few days. However, it did clear a bit later and surprisingly fished better than I thought possible!

Anyway, first trip out for the year and we wanted a lazy day. Recent success had been with the boat either buoyed up or at anchor, so we decided to do the same today. In fact, all the boats out today were at anchor, a large contingent at Beuaman's, some as always at Chingley, and four boats including us out from the Playground. We had a good morning's fishing, not manic but steady, until about 2pm when it got too cold for us oldies so called it a day.

John had two fit Rainbows to the boat and lost at least 3. I managed to hang on to 6 and a couple of freshwater muscles that frequent the lakebed at Bewl. I think the other three boats near us caught fish, but they did move a fair bit when patience is needed on the winter. Actually, we did see fish at times between 12 and 1pm but I have tried for them before to no avail and once again our fish came on white small Minkie Boobies, low and slow on a D18 on the bottom in a maximum 15ft of water.

### SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

Typical winter fishing. Low and slow in areas that normally yield fish throughout the year and whilst the temperatures are above freezing keep to the relatively shallow water or banks. We have caught the majority of our fish since November in water a maximum of 15ft deep.

The weekend fishing is popular at Bewl so it is worth checking or booking before a trip. Next week may be a tad colder but not the wind and rain that we have endured this week, so it should fish well.

Tight lines, Ray French