

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 2nd Feb. 2024.

by Ray French.

Bewl has settled into its normal winter mode now in that each day has to be taken on merit. Some days are good with anglers averaging 3 or 4 fish each, and others can be difficult with 1 or 2 being a good return.

At this time of year, the sun is not the problem that it is in the summer. In fact, I have found it to be completely the opposite. Blue sky, bright sun and a light or no wind is just about perfect. Winter has included quite a few of these days. 'Windows of opportunity' I have been calling them and they have usually provided some good sport with the Trout. Having said that, many of the days this winter have still included a cold wind on the water, either from the off or during the day which has influenced surface sport to a large extent. Bewl Trout do not like a cold wind!

What with the winds and the resulting-coloured water, the majority of Trout are hugging the lakebed. Maybe the visibility is better down there, I have no way of knowing other than most of the Trout to our boat on the fly has been taken from or close to the bottom. A fact echoed by the Rangers in conversation with the Any Method rods.

Regular boat partner John Turner and I were out on Wednesday morning, and we found it difficult. The early morning flat calm and overcast conditions were merely a prelude to a biting SW wind which increased during the morning. We managed 3 between us and I lost another at Chingley Point. Talking to BBFC clubmate Paul Cramp yesterday, who was also out on Wednesday, he told me he had three, a few takes, a couple lost and apparently the third boat out had at least one. I reckon that is good for the last day of January, influenced as it was by the wind which by 2pm had convinced our boat that the best of the day had gone!

Yesterday (Thursday) was again different with sun and a light wind from the Northwest for most of the day. Apparently, it fished better especially from the boats between 11am – 2pm when a few fish showed on the surface. Some were "Oncers", fish that rise from the deep, show and then go deep. The others were after hatching Buzzers encouraged by the sun. I was envious, it would have been idyllic on Bewl in such conditions. Cold, yes, but only on wet hands and providing you wrap up it's not a problem.

The bank fishing is pretty much non-existent at this time of the year, except for the Lodge bank down to the Dam which is still providing the best and most convenient option. Again, no two days are the same, but fish have been taken here during the week in the calm and always worth a try for the more patient angler especially.

BBFC AGM.

Bewl Bridge Flyfishers' Club hold their AGM this weekend, Saturday 3rd February starting at 11am and followed after lunch by the Club Tackle Auction.

SEASON ENDS.

The Bewl Fishing Season ends on Sunday 25th February and the last weekends are always popular, so to avoid disappointment why not book your boats early. I fish during the week and normally there is no problem at all but with the size of Bewl's reduced Winter fleet it may be best to book or check.

Tight lines, Ray French.

