

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 9 Feb. 2024.
by Ray French

Last weekend Bewl fished well with good weather and plenty of boats out on both days. Most successful were the Any Method rods using bait hard on the bottom and/or suspended on a float. The fly rods did better in the areas of clear water. Just shows that when conditions are favourable, February fishing can provide some good sport.

Unfortunately, conditions and results changed from Monday and the fishing during this week has been heavily hampered by a mixture of wind, rain, and sleet, which weathered the exposed banks and coloured the water in total. Also, the alterations by Southern Water to the main Dam wall have been suspended until the Autumn to allow for water to be pumped back in from the river Medway and the water level to be raised again. This has now started and is noticeable, but it has also contributed to the water colour. However, the water will clear as the weather settles and the mud gets covered, which it visibly is. As far as the fishing goes the water colour makes little difference when the fish are on the bottom as they are at the moment, especially to those using bait/paste that has an element of smell.

The fly rods are obviously at a disadvantage, although the bigger flies in Black and/or White fished low and slow are favourite at the moment, either weighted on lighter lines or Booby versions on heavy lines. The good side to all this is at least water is now going in and the level should be a lot better for the new season on March 15th.

FISHING

John T. and I snatched a couple of hours on Wednesday morning between showers and yes it was difficult. Looking at the water colour I didn't think we had much of a chance on the fly, and as far as I was concerned that proved correct. I didn't even get a pull! John did though. He seduced one late morning to a white Minky on Di3 line close to the bottom in 10ft of water...

There were a couple of AM boats out as well, but we never saw much of them and came ashore long before they did so never got to confer.

OUTLOOK

For this weekend, good I would say. The wind is supposed to drop to a Light South Westerly with cloud cover both Saturday and Sunday with maybe a shower on Sunday which is about as good as it gets in February.

Don't forget, just two more weeks until the end of season to take advantage of some winter fishing and blow them cobwebs away...

Tight lines, have a good week.
Ray French.

Image: A surprised and delighted John Turner with our one fish on Wednesday.

