

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

October 2025

By The Bewl Phantom 🐼 (still haunting the pontoons... and occasionally the café)

General Fishing Update

Well folks, something spooky has happened this week... The fish have actually started cooperating! 🐼🎉

Yes, you read that right — the Bewl Phantom can confirm that rods have been bending, nets have been wet, and anglers have even been smiling! (A rare sight at Bewl lately.)

The Any Method lads kicked things off last weekend, and several of them managed to bag up with eight trout apiece. Most of the fish were in top 5 meters, though a few sneaky ones were cruising higher up in the water column, just to keep everyone guessing.

Fly fishers, however, had a tougher start. The trout were in stealth mode again, plenty on top, or even few in the creeks— perhaps they were waiting for the Phantom's blessing.

The Grand Max Competition – Bewl Bridge Flyfishing Club Invitational

On Wednesday, Bewl played host to the legendary Bewl Bridge Flyfishing Club's annual Team Invitation Boat Competition — known to most as the “Grand Max” (and to the Phantom as “The Day of Hope and Heartbreak”).

Eleven teams of six anglers each came from across England and even Europe, all armed with floating lines, drifting “loch style,” and strictly following International Rules. The event ran from 9:30am to 5:30pm, with a well-earned lunch break (for both anglers and fish).

Fishing was, as expected, a test of patience, optimism, and vocabulary restraint. But compared to recent weeks, there were definite signs of improvement — not necessarily in numbers caught, but in activity. The trout were finally showing, swirling, following, and giving us false hope once again.

Some anglers saw steady action all day. Others... well, let's just say they had plenty of time to admire the scenery and polish their reels. I personally managed two trout — and several near misses that might still be laughing at me underwater.

The main complaint from the fleet? Fish following flies like curious toddlers, then disappearing the second you lifted off. They were there, watching... plotting. (Perhaps they knew we were only allowed floating lines.)

Still, spirits were high, jokes were flying, and even the ghost of Hook House made an appearance! 🧛

A big well done to Phil Thompson, who absolutely smashed it with nine trout, proving that someone in this world still knows what they're doing.

🏆 **Winning Team: Team Seaguar.** Congratulations, lads — you've earned your bragging rights and a pint or three. 🍺

🎣 Fishing Conditions & Hotspots

Considering this was a floating-line-only comp, fished in hard conditions with plenty of cloud cover, the results were actually pretty encouraging.

Fish are now moving around and spreading out nicely, with fewer tight shoals and more random wanderers — a bit like anglers after lunch.

Key areas worth your attention this week:

- From the Gorse Bushes in Bewl Straight to the Cages in Hook Straight
- The entire Main Basin, where many boats were seen doing mysterious loops
- Bewl Straight up to Dunstars, where fish have been spotted again
- Interestingly, most boats gave Hook Straight and Copens Reach a miss — so if you fancy less company and possibly more fish, that might be your ticket.

🧛♂️ The Phantom's Theory Corner

Here's something to think about (cue eerie music 🎵):

When the trout are stocked, they bolt left, straight out, and right from the stocking apron. So why, oh why, do most of us in boats only ever go straight out or turn left? Perhaps... the right side is where the real ghosts — and bigger fish — lurk. 👁️

☀️ Summary

This week's fishing shows real signs that autumn sport is finally kicking off. Both Fly and Any Method anglers have had their moments, and the sheer number of fish seen (not just dreamt of) is the most promising sign since July.

At present, most of the trout being caught are the smaller, newer stockies — but don't be fooled! They fight like champions, leap like acrobats, and make you forget that they're technically budget fish.

If the deeper trout start to rise and join the party with the recent stockings, we could be in for an absolute Bewl Bonanza. 🧡🐟

🪵 Stocking News

Four more stockings are planned before the end of the year as part of the Bewl Autumn–Winter Programme. Keep your eyes peeled on the Bewl Facebook page for updates — or just listen for the Phantom's delighted cackle echoing across the water.

And a gentle reminder:

🚫 Two anglers were caught this week with too many fish.

Bag checks are happening regularly, so don't be greedy — **the Phantom sees everything.** 👁

If you see anything suspicious or “off” on the water, do the right thing and let the Rangers know.

🚤 Boat Bookings

If you're planning a weekend session — book early! The boats are filling up faster than a trout race at feeding time. Autumn and winter are some of Bewl's best fishing months, and the Phantom would hate for you to miss out.

👤 Final Words from the Phantom

It's been a long, strange summer, but the tides are turning. The fish are moving, the anglers are hopeful, and the ghosts are restless.

So polish those rods, tie those flies, and come join me on the misty waters of Bewl.

Who knows — this might be the week you become the stuff of fishy legend... or at least the next entry in my spooky report. 👁

Tight lines and steady nerves,

The Bewl Phantom