

# BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

**End of October 2025** - by the Bewl Phantom 🧛

Well folks, it's official — Bewl's switched into Autumn overdrive!

A fresh 2,500 trout went in last week and they've wasted no time introducing themselves. By the weekend, rods were bending all over the place and both Fly and Any Method anglers were getting in on the action. The fish have acclimatised beautifully to the rapidly cooling water and are cruising high — top 5ft, right in the zone for surface sport.

Even better, most days have been overcast with just enough ripple to keep things interesting. We did have one of those dreaded flat calm, bright days that sends fly fishers muttering into their landing nets... but aside from that, conditions have been near perfect!

## THE FISHING

This week's been one of those golden weeks when everything just lines up. Fish up high, clear water, and a fleet of happy anglers. Plenty of boats have been bagging up, whether on Fly or Any Method.

For the fly anglers, it's been proper "top of the water" fishing — the kind we dream about all winter. Trout are willing to have a go at dries sitting motionless in the ripple, or smash a Fry Booby fished slow and jerky. But here's the catch (or rather, the almost catch): they're still being a bit non-committal. A lot of following, a lot of 'boils' under the fly, and then... nothing! Like someone knocking on your door and running away. Great fun, slightly maddening.

Still, the Bewl Phantom's luck continues. Out with Andy on Wednesday — double figures on Catch and Release, both of us with a double-up before lunch and back in by 2pm for tea. Today, out with James Brown (and no, not that one — this one keeps his funk in the rod bag) we had a repeat performance: around 18 fish to the boat, 4 kept for the table, the rest released. Lots of follows, a couple of double-ups, and constant surface activity. Fantastic sport all round.

## METHOD & TACTICS

I've stuck to the same formula for my last three trips — and if it ain't broke, don't fix it!

Line: Floating. Always. Even in bright sun — though I do make minor tweaks rather than reaching for the sinking line.

Setup:

3-fly washing line rig.

Top & middle droppers: Size 12 Orange Blob (with that all-important hot arse).

Point fly: Size 10 'Candy Man' Fry Booby.

In dead-flat calm, I'll drop down a size or swap the point fly for a smaller, stealthier option.

Today, when the sun broke through, I swapped briefly to a small goldhead Orange Cat on the point — caught a couple about 6ft down — but as soon as the clouds came back, I was back on the Booby where it belongs.

Leader setup: 10lb XLine, with 8ft from fly line to top dropper, then 6ft between each fly. A lot of anglers are running similar, though some prefer shorter leaders (and fewer tangles, admittedly).

Retrieve:

No single retrieve has dominated. Fast pulls haven't been as good as last week; slow and varied has been the key. Mix up your Fig-8 speeds, try short sharp pulls, or just leave it static and believe. Keep alert at the lift-off — that's when they pounce!

Conditions:

Cloud and light winds — that's the dream combo. A bit of ripple transforms things. Flat calm? Move around and hunt for ripple patches. If you're stuck in the glassy stuff, slow it right down, let your flies hang, or swap to dries like a foam Daddy or Hopper.

And if you're fishing Daddies in a light breeze — a gentle twitch every so often can turn a lazy looker into a taker.

## WHERE TO FISH

The good news? The fish are everywhere.

From Bramble Point and Hook Straight across the Main Bowl, up Bewl Straight to the Gorse Bushes and Copens Reach — it's hard to find a dead zone right now.

Personally, I've been working the Main Basin, Dam, and Bewl Straight from Chingley to the first red buoy. Long drifts are the way to go. Cover water, and you'll bump into fish — lots of them. When you find a pod, go again or drop the hook.

Today's westerly made for lovely long drifts from Metal Mickey across the middle towards Chingley Wood and into Bewl Straight. Consistent sport all day.

Any Method anglers:

You're doing just as well. In flat calm, baits under floats have worked a treat. When there's a bit of wave, small spinners fished slow are bagging the better fish. The Belgian boys we met coming off the water both bagged up — eight apiece, and grinning from ear to ear.

## SUMMARY

I've been brutally honest in my summer reports — when it's been tough, I've said so. But now, in the spirit of fairness (and joy), I can declare: Bewl is fishing its socks off.

The trout are active, the water's cool, and the Autumn sport is as good as you could hope for. Not every cast is a hook-up, but there's always action. And with regular stockings lined up between now and the New Year, it could get even better.

A nice bonus this week: the fish seem noticeably bigger on average. Not sure if it's mid-season residents coming back up from the depths, or some chunky new arrivals — either way, no complaints here!

## ODDS & ENDS

Boats: Out from 8:30 am, back by 3:45 pm.

Booking: Weekends are busy, so reserve early for Fly, Any Method, or Predator days. Midweek— usually space available, but it's getting popular again.

Bewl water level: Holding around 40%.

Dam works: Progress! Three pipes have now been pulled up the wall. (Photo below — for those who enjoy a good bit of infrastructure with their angling news.)

In Short:

Cloud = your friend ☁️

Ripple = your best friend 🌊

Flat calm = patience, prayer, and maybe a flask of something strong 🍷

The fish are up, active, and hungry.

The Bewl Phantom approves 🐟

Until next week — tight lines, gentle drifts.

