

# BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

**November 2025** - by the Bewl Phantom 🐉

## General Conditions

The fishing at Bewl this week has continued to offer good sport whenever the weather has allowed, though the recent cold snap has certainly made things more challenging. Freezing conditions and a biting north wind over the past few days have pushed the trout down in the water. The newly stocked fish, which had been feeding actively on naturals and fry near the surface, have now dropped deeper and become more subdued.

As winter sets in, this will increasingly become the pattern — fish moving down to find more stable water temperatures. That said, the trout rarely go deeper than 4–6 metres, and on most days 3–4 metres remains the optimal feeding depth.

Interestingly, a number of the fish stocked earlier in the season (pre-summer) seem to have remained close to the lake bed for much of the year. A few of the larger trout caught recently may well be these older stockies, as several have been noticeably heavier and in excellent condition despite being taken from shallow water.

Water levels are currently low, so “deep” water isn’t as deep as it used to be — worth remembering when choosing lines and counting down flies or lures.

## The Fishing

There were plenty of fish caught last weekend by both Fly and Any Method anglers, though it was far from easy. Some rods enjoyed cracking sessions, while others struggled to tempt a take.

### Any Method Anglers

The Any Method anglers have had the advantage of being able to adapt more readily to the changeable conditions. Those using float setups or spinning gear have found success by varying depths and retrieves until they located active fish. On milder days, trout could still be tempted in the upper layers, particularly with small silver or gold spinners, micro spoons, or soft plastics fished slowly.

When the cold north wind moved in, a slower, more patient approach paid dividends. Fish tended to hold mid-water or just above the weed line, and anglers who adjusted by

counting lures down to 3–5 metres before beginning a steady retrieve fared best. A few have reported good results with lightly coloured soft lures (white, pearl, or pale olive) and natural bait imitations such as mini jigs or twisters, particularly in clearer water.

Those using bait under a float — particularly powerbait eggs or worm-tipped hooks — did well in more sheltered areas, especially near the Dam Wall and the Cages. Trout seemed to favour slow-moving offerings, and bites often came after long pauses. With the water cooling rapidly, static or near-static presentations will become increasingly effective.

## **Fly Anglers**

Fly fishers enjoyed good sport earlier in the week, especially in mild spells when the trout rose for a couple of hours around 11:30am to 2pm — typically the warmest part of the day. During these windows, fish could be seen cruising, dimpling, or even jumping.

Boats drifting with floating or intermediate lines and small fry patterns, such as Humungus, Minkies, or Sparkler variants, did best near the surface. When fish were down, DI3 or DI5 sinking lines paired with compact lures or damsels picked up bonus fish.

However, by Tuesday the weather turned, and Wednesday was brutally cold. I ventured out with regular partner Andy for what ended up being only a two-hour session. Between numb fingers, frozen fly lines, and a stiffening wind, we probably managed no more than fifty minutes of actual fishing. I had a couple of tentative takes, and we saw an Any Method angler land a pair of fish — though to be fair, he had gloves and a fixed spool reel, which helped!

Despite the tough conditions, the water remains relatively clear, and with the temperature dropping, the trout are likely to remain active and responsive to both fly and lure when presented correctly.

## **Location**

Most regulars, regardless of method, are concentrating their efforts in and around the Main Bowl, stretching down as far as the Old Cages in Hook Straight or across to Chingley Wood in Bewl Straight. The majority are anchoring up — particularly on breezy days — and fishing within 100 metres of the banks, often closer around the Dam and Ferry Point.

If you're new to Bewl or simply want a starting point, stick to the Main Bowl. Keep an eye out for bending rods, fish bags, or gull activity — all signs of feeding trout nearby.

## **Kayak & Predator Fishing**

Kayak anglers have also enjoyed a few calm windows this week. Saturday saw several head out and return with decent catches, especially of perch, which are hitting lures aggressively in the cooler water. Drop-shotting with small soft plastics or worm imitations has produced consistent results, particularly along the weed edges and drop-offs.

The pike, however, have been noticeably sluggish. As the old ranger John Barefoot used to say, “Pike only start feeding properly after the first hard frost” — so their time is still to come. Once that happens, expect sport to pick up dramatically, especially around the bays and reed margins.

## Summary & Outlook

The forecast for the weekend looks far more promising, with milder temperatures and a southerly wind expected by Sunday. That's great news for anyone planning a trip, as a southerly will blow from roughly Ferry Point to Canoe Club Corner at the Dam, offering decent shelter in the Main Bowl.

For those looking to fish comfortably and effectively:

**Drifting boats (Fly)** – Focus on areas from Beauman's Point to the Cages, the Gorse Bushes to Chingley Point, and along the southern bank in Bewl Straight. A drogue will help you cover fish steadily without spooking them.

**Anchored approaches** – Target up to 7m of water, or less if conditions are calm. On mild days, don't ignore the windy banks; trout often patrol these zones looking for food pushed in by the breeze.

**Any Method** – Alternate between shallow and mid-depth presentations. Start shallow with slow-rolled lures or static baits, then explore deeper if bites dry up. If water clarity drops below 40%, switch to brighter patterns or add scent to help fish locate your bait.

**The key now is flexibility** — adapting to the day's temperature, light, and water colour. The fish are there and feeding; it just takes patience and a bit of experimentation.

Tight lines,

Bewl Phantom 🐟