

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 17th May '24.

by Ray French.

Another excellent week of fishing, with lots of fish being caught by both Any Method and Fly rods. A vital factor this week; the winds have been light in the mornings and there has been some cloud on most days. However, the last couple of days the fish have not been feeding avidly all day and certainly not all at the same time. Today (Friday) it paid to move when takes dried up. This week the Main Bowl has fished better in the mornings whereas Bewl Straight and Hook Straight have been worth a look in the afternoon.

THE FISHING

The Trout have been high in the water, especially when there is some cloud cover and even in the sun when there is very little wind. What spoils it is when there is sun and a moderate to strong wind. Fortunately, we have not had much of that this week.

I have been out a couple of times on the Fly and I think most people that I saw caught fish. Certainly, on Wednesday pretty much all the AM boys had bags over the side. Most of them were using small light Spinners retrieved relatively slowly, or bait and float. It was also nice to see more Fly rods on the water including some old friends. They also had bags over the side, albeit most were drifting. I used my usual set up with John T on Wednesday, basically the 'Washing Line' with long leader on the Airflow 'Fast Glass' line. Small Booby on Point, Cormorant mid dropper and colour on top dropper.

There was cloud early morning and a light ripple. I had a couple early with a slow retrieve and then for the first time this season for me, some of the Trout were prepared to chase, especially the Booby when it disturbed the water. So, a change to floater it was, and the effect was immediate. Some great sport with three fish and lots of snapping, tugs and splashing. Half an hour though and that was it with the frenzied action. The cloud thinned, the sun broke through, and it was back to a slow figure of 8 retrieve. I stayed on the floater for the rest of the morning. John also changed to floater from a slow glass during the morning. By 1.30pm we had caught and returned into double figures. However, as usual, the fish stopped for lunch & siesta, and the sun & wind had increased. Bad news. We gave it another hour but not a lot of joy until I put the leader on a D15 sinking line and caught one on the Booby. John changed to the same line and he caught, also on the Booby. Anyway, that was it for us and we were off the water by 2.30.

Today (Friday) I was out with George Brown. A very different tale. Very bright with hardly any wind which should have been ok, but it turned out that we had to work to get our fish. We did all sorts of things with all sorts of lines and flies. There was no master method that we found but we did end up with 9 fish. We caught at various depths from 6" down to about 6ft. The catching flies included Boobies (4), Diawl Bach(1), Hopper (1), Cormorant (1) and Damsel Fly (2). Again, we came off the water by 2.30 having returned all fish bar one.

SUMMARY

There should be sufficient cloud over the weekend and next week to continue the good fishing, and even with sun they are catchable but just a bit more 'Picky' and at times a tad deeper. On both days the majority of Trout came on a very slow retrieve almost static.

On Wednesday I fished Hook Straight, Main Bowl and a bit of Bewl Straight. Today we stayed in the Main Bowl and moved a lot. This morning some of the AM lads caught but there were a few struggling. Maybe they did better this afternoon.

PS. After I came in I talked to another Fly rod who had a good morning catching 9 Trout out on his own. He was using a slow sink line and small Gold Head Damsel... it must be Damsel time!!!

Tight lines, have a good week,
Ray French.

Below, this beauty took my Green Diawl Bach behind a Booby on Floater. I kept this one.

