

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.

Week ending Friday 24th May.

by Ray French.

The fishing this week has very much reflected the weather, good in parts. Last weekend was good with both Any Method and Fly anglers having excellent sport, whereas mid-week has been unpredictable with sun, rain, low pressure and strong winds dictating the play. 'Play' being the operative word. At times the fish didn't want to and needed some serious coaxing. Many anglers tend to concentrate on the Main Bowl and for good reason, it is big, deep, and holds a lot of resident fish. However, on conditions like we have had this week, especially a brisk SW wind and sun, it can be difficult.

Of late the fish have been feeding high in the water, often taking food on the surface. However, this is mostly in cloud and with light winds, so for a couple of days this week the fish in the Bowl had a bit of a culture shock and went off the feed. It is worth saying here that I am speaking as a Fly fisherman who generally fishes from a drifting boat.

For those that anchor, and that is some of the fly rods and pretty much all the Any Method boys, weather conditions are of little consequence. Having said that, we are all equally affected if the fish go off. What I am trying to say is that there are plenty of good options at Bewl where the fish are less affected by the wind and weather than the Main Bowl. There is a plethora of bays and Creeks, all of which have been recently trickle stocked by boat. For example, on a South Westerly you have the whole of Bewl Straight to Rosemary Lane and on Hook Straight the top end, Browns Inlet, Pine Bay, Seven Pound Creek, Belgrano Bay, Bramble Bay and the old cages area.

THE FISHING

Any Method:

Small Spinners have continued to dominate the catches with Float fished bait/paste also successful. A couple of boats came in for second tickets last weekend and I suspect there will be a few more over the Bank Holiday weekend. Apparently, some of the fish caught on the float were down at 10-15ft in the sun.

Fly Fishing:

Again, really good at the weekend with flies, lures and various lines all successful. Personally, I have been using the 'Washing Line' technique fairly exclusively of late, where a couple of flies are 'hung out' on leader droppers with a Booby or Fab on point to provide buoyancy proving the most effective technique. The method can be fished on any line but the Floater or a Slow Sink has been the most favoured best fished with a slow fig 8. But as I mentioned last week, given some cloud and rising fish, they will chase and take on the pull.

I was out on Wednesday for a morning with George Brown this time in rain, wind and sun! And as I said it earlier it was difficult. We did manage to catch eight to the boat, but we tried a lot of lines to get them. At least I did! We both started with 3 flies (too windy for 4) on the 'Washing Line' method and slow intermediate lines using the same flies (White booby, Cormorant and small blob). We fished the Main Bowl in the wind, which is when we realised the fish were not playing, and then along Bewl Straight drifting into the windy banks but with a lot less wind. George caught six to my two but because we thought they had possibly gone deeper I spent wasted time going through the gears on different lines. At 2pm it had got too windy, and more rain was imminent, so we called it a day. We had 2 fish in the Main Bowl and 6 in Bewl Straight and all taken in the top 3ft.

This morning (Friday) I was with Bewl Member Nick Cox. Conditions were completely different today with mostly flat calm and sun. There was occasional ripple, but it continuously changed direction. It certainly appeared to confuse the fish who were rising on occasions but not with any consistency or in any particular area. Nor did they want to come near the boat in the calm and always seemed to show too far away to reach with a cast.

Today I stayed on the Slow Sink Intermediate with the same 'Washing Line' set up as I started with on Wednesday, and it was Nick who changed lines and went through the gears. Because we were becalmed most of the time it was necessary to keep moving which we did mostly in the Main Bowl but also down Hook Straight near the old Cages and Bramble Point. It wasn't easy fishing but a beautiful day to be out in a boat. Sadly, we had to leave at 1.30pm due to other commitments, however we did manage to catch five nice Trout. Nick had 1 and I winkled out 4 and although we tried different depths, or rather Nick did, all 5 fish took our flies in the top 3 ft.

SUMMARY

Should be good over the Weekend, if the wind is a light SW or from any other direction, the Main Bowl should fish really well. If a strong SW wind and sun, maybe try some of the aforementioned places where the wind is less.

Note: The best fishing in those places will be on the banks the wind is blowing onto. That is where drifting natural food will end up and with it the Trout! As far as fish depth is concerned, they seem to go from surface to 15ft deep albeit on the Fly we have not caught anything deep at all.

Tight lines, have a good week...

Ray French.

Below: Nick brings a nice Rainbow to the boat.

