

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.

For the week ending Friday 3rd May 2024.

by Ray French.

THE BIG CHANGE!!

The cold blustery winds of last week were at last replaced by a warmer, gentler wind on Monday and that, together with yet another prime stocking, brought on a dramatic change in the fishing which has been fantastic this week...

The benefits have been obvious and immediate with fish showing over much of the reservoir in what has been almost perfect conditions. The lucky ones that have been able to get out this week have had some great sport and seen first-hand the quantity and quality of this season's stock.

THE FISHING

I went out on Wednesday morning in the boat, as usual with John T, in cloud, sun and a light ripple. There was a good mix of Any Method and Fly anglers, and within a short space of time I noticed that every boat had a fish bag over the side. As usual the AM lads were anchored whereas we drifted. On Wednesday morning we never went out of sight of the Fishing Lodge, we didn't need to. We caught on almost every drift. We ended up with over 20 fish to the boat by 1pm with all but 4 fish returned to the water unharmed. I mention numbers only as an indication of how good the fishing can be when conditions are right.

All my fish came within a foot of the surface. Some followed and took on the hold whilst others came as the flies touched the water on the cast. At the end of the session I was down to using a small single white Booby left static and took 3 fish on it. Dries would have been equally as good, maybe next time.

The main benefit of the warmer conditions has been the explosion of natural food within the lake, of which the Flies hatching from the water are the most obvious. This has brought the Trout on the feed and much higher in the water to take the flies as they hatch from the Pupae risen from the lakebed.

I went out again this morning (Friday) with George Brown, who I partnered last Friday, and who finished the morning with a nice Rainbow of 5lb 6oz. The early rain and gusting wind slowed the action somewhat, but I still managed seven to the boat and dropped a couple, and George had four. The fish were still high in the water but very finicky today and George probably had as many takes as me but could not get his to stick. We came off the water at 2pm before the rains came. Very enjoyable. Today on the Southwest wind the best area for us was the entrance to Bewl Straight, not off the wind but out of the worst of it, drifting out from Ferry Point across to Chingley Wood.

THE FISH

It is worth mentioning that there has been a lot of fish stocked and caught between 2lb and 4lb and some of 5lb + this season so just a word of warning on tackle. Fishing with flies at Bewl in its current mood often results in double ups, and at these weights I strongly recommend fluorocarbon leaders of at least 10lb breaking strain using Wet Flies. My own preference is 12lb XLine whilst the stock are still in pods but normally 10lb is ok.

ANY METHOD

With the water clearing quickly small lures have once again become effective and catches have increased significantly in the last couple of weeks, but they are best fished slow rather than fast.

Because of the afore mentioned hatching flies and natural food the Trout are still not chasing hard as yet because there is no need to, which is why bait paste on the float is doing very well.

SUMMARY

I have fished Bewl for many years and frankly at this moment it is up there with its halcyon days. Ok the Main Bowl gets crowded at weekends but during the week there is plenty of space and plenty of fish, and sharing the venue with Any Method anglers is NOT a problem at all these days. There were a few boats out each day this week but thanks to the efforts of the current management with their 2024 stocking programme and modern boat fleet, Bewl Water is now back to its best fishing wise, and I am amazed that more are not taking advantage of it during the week. Anyway, the next three months is prime time fishing so get the cobwebs off those rods and get back into some action! And bring a young'un with you. A spinner, rod, line and fixed spool reel is all they need for starters these days.

Have a good week...
Ray French.

Below. George B. hanging on to a double up which took refuge under the boat!!!

