

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.
Week ending Friday 31st May '24
by Ray French

3,500 PRIME TROUT BOOST!!!

Yes, as part of Bewl Water's heavy Spring stocking programme, another 3,500 quality Trout have been stocked this week, including a few big ones. As well as Rainbows, 150 Blue Trout and a few Browns went in too, so keep a look out for them in your catch!

THE FISHING

The stocking was timely because the catch rate has dropped a bit this week, in some part due to the fantastic number of fish caught and taken so far this season, but also the mixed weather we are currently having which is so unpredictable. Surprisingly, even with the amount of rain and wind changes we have had, Bewl recorded a water temperature of 17° degrees last week which is higher than one would have expected. The fish reacted to that by going deeper in the water, not all the time but often in the sun and wind and especially in the afternoon. Of course, with any cloud and light winds they are quickly up.

*Any Method

With the fish moving up and down in the water, AM rods have been able to adapt quickly using bait with floats and weighted spinning lures to reach the fish. Apparently, bait proved the most successful at the weekend, and during the week I noticed that most anchored AM boats had a fish bag over the side.

*Fly Fishing

Has also been harder this week as fishing with Fly is a lot easier when you can see fish to target, or there is evidence of fish in the surface by movement or disturbance. When the fish are not showing at all we are reliant on judgement, experience, and a lot of luck in terms of fly choice combined with depth and retrieve speed. However, when the fish up, our Flies will often out fish lures, spinners and bait, so success seems to work out pretty even in the long run. I was out a couple of times this week, on Wednesday with John Turner and today (Friday) with George Brown.

On Wednesday we had 7 Trout and missed a few due to the takes being very light and the fish fickle. However, the 7 with did have were solid takes, no messing. Strange morning really. Again, some we caught high in the water others at about 6ft and best retrieve for us was still basically slow.

Today, (Friday) out with George in rain, wind and plenty of freshly stocked Trout! And good to see that they have already spread well out from the stocking point. Yes, the NW winds today showed a lot of fish out in the Main Bowl and with the heavy cloud cover they were up and visible at times. We caught well on the Flies today including several double hook ups. In fact, because of the wind we only used two flies. It didn't much matter what they were, we drifted long drifts out in the wind and just kept casting and retrieving running into little pods of fish. We returned all the fish this morning unharmed. However, there were some hefty fish among the ones we caught, and I recommend you use a good strong Flouro leader especially in the wind. I was using 12lb today didn't get smashed even when playing two!

SUMMARY

As part of Bewl Waters extensive ongoing stocking programme the new arrivals quickly spread out also livened up the existing stock. We caught in the Main Bowl today but apparently a lot of the stock fish were found from Hook House down to Bramble Bay yesterday. So, it is worth moving if sport is slow.

Being retired I have the benefit of being able to fish midweek which is marvellous, there are plenty of boats available and plenty of places to explore and fish. It is not usually necessary to pre-book midweek and boats normally are out from about 8.30am at this time of the year. However, the weekend is different. Bewl has enjoyed some great weekend fishing this season and it is hugely popular, so I strongly recommend you book early. Weekend or weekday June is a good month for fishing...

Tight lines, have a good week!
Ray French.

Below: George with a 'Double up'

