

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 12 July 2024.
by Ray French.

Bewl has continued to provide good sport for the Any Method anglers, whereas the Fly rods have struggled in the sun at times, especially when combined with a fresh S/SW breeze which has plagued us on and off for weeks and again for much of this week. However, over the last couple of days the cloud has built and the wind has turned to a Northerly. My what a difference it made...

THE PAST WEEK

One of the most noticeable changes in the Trout behaviour of the past couple of weeks is that a lot of them are now seeking the cooler thermal layers that are present in most bodies of water, especially deep ones like a reservoir. When the fish find the surface water too warm and uncomfortable they seek these layers which could be at any depth including the bottom.

For years, from July onwards, Bewl Trout have gone deep in high Summer. Bewl is upwards of 70ft deep in places, but 40ft is the most I have caught Trout on the Fly with the majority coming at between 20ft - 30ft. When the Bewl Water temperature reaches 18°C to around 21°C at 6ft, the Trout begin to drop down. At the moment it is hovering around these figures. In a hot summer with the water temperature in excess of these figures they will drop and stay down.

At the moment I believe the fish to be at two different levels. I know I said last week I thought the Trout were in the top 10ft. Despite that, this week I have had reports of them being caught at 20ft+ by Any Method rods. However, depending on the weather, there are still a lot of Trout being caught in the top 4ft. Today was an example of that.

Last weekend in the cloud and rain there were double limit catches. Admittedly they were caught on bait but fairly high in the water. As reported last week, some Trout have been rising and feeding in the early morning calm this week. I was out Wednesday morning in a boat with John Turner. George Baker, my Friday partner, was in another boat but on his own. We were each on the Fly. The wind was awful, a strong South Westerly, blowing big time. Some of the Any Method lads caught at anchor and so did George who managed 4 off Chingley Point. John and I struggled on the drift even out of the wind and managed just one to the boat. We did see some fish, but they were 'once'rs'... Trout that rise rapidly from deep, have a quick look, then dive straight back down again... It was a day for being on the anchor!

But by today (Friday) it had all changed!!!! Overcast sky, slight Northerly wind coming over the dam that gave a nice ripple well out into the middle of the Main Bowl.

Today I was out with George B. and what a morning we had. We fished floating line with a 'Washing Line' set up of Booby, Cormorant and mini-Blob on top dropper. On catch and release we both went into double figures which included a 'double up' each. All the fish were quality Trout and fought well. George caught the fish of the morning, a cracker of 5lb on the scales that kept him occupied for about 10 minutes! (See picture below.) Today, we caught high in the water, the cloud allowed that, either static or with a slow figure of eight with the majority coming to the Booby.

SUMMARY

At this time of year, it is very difficult to advise on method and location because both are liable to change on a daily basis. What I would say is that the anchored boats seem to be doing a lot better in the wind than those on the drift. The Trout are not really up and chasing. In the sun static bait and slowly fished flies are proving best. Today small spinners fished slow would have done well.

Best areas this week have been the Main Bowl with the Playground, the Dam, and Chingley Wood to Chingley Point always favourites. It has been a bit rough out in the middle, so most rods have kept to sheltered areas. Having said that, in a lighter wind today was an exception. We drifted from the dam right out and caught fish all the way.

Bowl regular Nick Cox was out as well this morning. He also caught into double figures on the same set up. Remember, if the wind changes and the Bowl doesn't fish, don't forget Hook Straight. Fish are being caught from the Lodge down to the old Cages on both sides. Much of which is sheltered. And of course, there is Bewl Straight which has Trout in many of its bays and Creeks.

The thing is with not many fish showing it is not easy to pinpoint exact fish locations. Not only have they spread out, but they continue to move with a change of wind. Most regulars know their favourite spots and tend to favour them but if you are new to Bewl take advice from other Anglers, the Rangers and above all look and learn.

Whatever the weather over the weekend after today I can vouch for there being a lot of fish in the Main Bowl whether they be up or down.

Tight lines, have a good week.
Ray French

Picture: George with fish of the day.

