

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT
Week ending Friday 19 July 2024.
by Ray French.

The excellent fishing of last Friday followed into the weekend with Sunday being exceptional. Both the Any Method and Fly Rod found fish at different places throughout the reservoir, but it is fair to say that the Main Bowl proved to be the most popular.

The main contributor to the angling fest was the low cloud and the light cooling Northerly wind. This brought a lot of fish up from deep to swim higher in the water. Once again, the fish were difficult to spot but the Fly boys were taking them in the top 1ft, as were some of the A.M lads using small bright Spinners. Having said that not all the fish were up and not all the time. There were still fish being caught down by those on bait, either attached to a weight or a float.

The cool weather and the good top of the water fishing continued into Monday and Tuesday but by Wednesday the wind, albeit light, had swung back to the usual SW and with that the cloud was replaced by the sun. I was out Wednesday for the morning with John T and it proved to be testing, although there were fish caught. We drifted around in the main bowl on the Flies using a mixture of lines. We did see quiet a few fish jump and a couple move in the surface courtesy of the odd cloud, but they were reluctant to take. However, there were a few boats out and I think most people caught in ones and twos. I saw a couple of AM boats catch and another had a bag over the side. They were not spinning but fishing static, probably deep, although one boat was using floats. It was a difficult morning!

Of the Fly rods I talked to out there, Bewl member Nick Cox had a couple last time I saw him. George Brown and his son also had a couple in the 'wheely' boat, and we had one each in our boat. The thing is we had all fished varying the depth, assuming most fish to be down, but in fact all our fish all came in the top couple of feet again. However, there was a guy I only know as Pete, tied up to a buoy out in the middle of the Main Bowl. He was on the Fly and I saw him catch. So, I pulled up for a chat. He had 3 prime Trout in his bag...caught on a Booby at 30ft!!

FLY TACKLE for Bewl...

I have not changed my flies much so far this season although I do change lines and present them in different formats. Most of us midweek regulars use much the same. Different colours maybe, but similar combinations.

My flies:

- *Small size 12 White/Pearl Booby (Fry pattern)
- *Black wing, red head Pearly Corm.
- *Small size 12 blob in Yellow, in Orange and in Tequila (with fine Pearl tags).
- *Mostly fished on a 'Washing line' set up on the line of the day...

Lines:

I use four basic lines 80% of the time; Floater, Slow Sink, Intermediate, and Sink Tip. If I go really deep it is usually on a fast-sinking D17 or 8 line and a couple of Boobies or a mixture of heavy Buzzers and/or Nymphs. A Sink Tip with long leader is a good option up to about 30 ft.

*Note:

To fish Bewl's depth in Summer it's advisable in wind to anchor or tie up to a buoy. Get the flies to the bottom or at least 30ft and slowly fig 8 to the surface.

Big Flies:

Although I use small flies, and lots of Fly lines, there is no reason why you can't shortcut all these and go for a nice Snake or Gold Head!! I have found the small Flies particularly effective for me over the years at most depths for most of the time, but in winter or high summer at Bewl when fishing deep, it sometimes pays to go to the dark side in line and Fly!!

Any Method.

There are so many options of Lures, Baits and presentations that all work on their day and plenty of like-minded Anglers that will advise you. Fishing at depth for Trout that are cruising, bait is a good option with Paste or a Prawn highly favoured. For those who favour spinning, a small silver lure with bags of movement but fished slowly can be deadly when there are fry shoals about. The Fishing Lodge is full of tackle for all methods of fishing including Flies. Well worth a look.

SUMMARY

Given the amount of sun during the last two days I am sure the majority of Trout will be down in the cooler layers, especially from midday until the evening. However, there are always a few fish that are prepared to swim higher and do, whatever the conditions. They show themselves occasionally even in the sun and given 10 minutes of cloud will show for longer.

*One thing that is worth noting now is the water colour. There is an element of green algae apparent in the water which is especially obvious on the windward banks. It does pay to keep an eye open for it because there are lots of good open water where it is not so prevalent. I don't think it matters much with smelly baits, but Flies are a different matter.

Whatever your fishing styles, this is fabulous weather and summer is great time to be out on the water. OK, it's not easy fishing in the sun but at least after last week we know they are there!!!

Have a good week.

Ray French.

Pict. Very welcome on a difficult morning

