

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 5th July 2024.

by Ray French.

Well, this week has been easier than last week, but it has certainly not been a fish a chuck. Conditions have been better, not so hot and good cloud cover on a couple of days...but that damn wind!!!

There are a lot of fish in the lake and if you arrive early morning before the wind gets up you will see evidence of them in the flat calm with ringing rises across the Main Bowl. However, as soon as the wind arrives scuffing the smooth surface into a ripple and then a wave, the evidence and those that create it disappear. And when there is sun sometimes for good!!

As last week it has been very much a matter of finding feeding fish and at this time of year with the fish hard on Jelly/Pin fry and the reservoirs natural larder, there is a large element of luck involved simply because...

- They are not hungry all the time
- The fry shoals move up, down and all over the place
- Trout behaviour in Summer is greatly influenced by water temperature

At the moment the water feels warm. Apparently it is in the high teens which is tolerable, but beyond that the Trout will drop into bands of cooler water which can be as much as 40ft in high summer. However, I don't think they have gone really deep as yet. I have tried fishing on the bottom at 20ft with Fly and Fly lures quite a bit recently and caught nothing. I have also talked to several Any Method rods who have fished deeper with bait on the bottom, who have also caught nothing.

FISHING

Any Method...

Again, I think the AM lads have had the best of the action but to be fair, given their choice of tactical options, they ought to. I believe bait on a float and tiny silver spinners have been favourite. But as always, to catch you need to be on fish that are prepared to play. At this time of year not all of them are. It then becomes a thinking anglers' game!

On the Fly....

This week, I was out on Wednesday with regular partner John Turner. We had got there early and there were quite a lot of rings on water and again, the wind arrived as we loaded the boat. We went out at 8.45am and started high in the water drift fishing on slow sinking lines and 'Washing Line' leader set ups in the Main Bowl before moving over to the Dam.

We concentrated on drifting all along the Dam 'zig zagging' the boat as far out as the Tower and back in but no takes. Strange because the Dam has fished well for weeks. There were three Any Method boats and a couple of boats with Fly anglers anchored close to the dam, but they were no problem. I think they were struggling as we were, although two of the AM boats did have bags over the side. The bags however were not exactly bulging but did suggest a modest content. I did have a fish on at one point, but I never got it in the boat. The fly came out at the net.

I did try fishing deeper for an hour mid-morning on a Di5 with various Flies at various sizes out of frustration but without success and by then we had a strong SW breeze. It felt cold and was blowing straight onto the Dam. A cold wind in summer can put Bewl fish completely off. We moved out of the wind into Bewl Straight in relative shelter and anyway we were drifting too fast in the Bowl, we wanted to retrieve slowly.

Also out, this time on his own, was my other regular boat partner George Baker. He had also gone to the Main Bowl. I had seen him earlier; he had caught one at anchor but like us had moved out of the Bowl as the wind increased and gone down Hook Straight towards the cages. I had come off the Di5 in Bewl Straight and was back on the 12ft slow tip. It was late morning, and we were drifting out of the worst of the wind at Chingley Wood, when George gave me a ring....

Well, George had caught 4 more fish! He had them off the wind in the area from Beauman's Point to Belgrano Bay, directly opposite the Fishing Lodge. So, drogue in and over we went... game on!! We met up with George who said that when he first got there the fish were rising in almost flat calm and his fish came high in the water. Now the wind had changed a bit and created a swirling ripple, he did not have any more takes. But I got lucky and caught two good fish and had a couple of follows in the next hour until it became obvious that the fish had either switched off or more likely moved on.

We three came off the water at 2pm. Between us we had caught 7 fish. George had 5. I had two, lost one at the net and had two serious follows. John did not score but missed a really good take in the last hour.

The reason for writing this account is to show how much luck can play a big part in fishing even though it was a difficult day. We had kept moving, George ran into some fish and then called us. We reckon that had we all gone over Beauman's earlier we could have bagged up. The other thing was all our fish were caught in the top 2ft of water.

Top Flies:

Size 12/14 mini–Yellow Blob.

Size 12 White Booby (Fry Pattern)

Lines:

Slow Inters. & 12 ft Slow Tip.

SUMMARY

The water is generally very clear except where the wind is disturbing exposed banks. Stick to the clear water.

- In the wind it is best to anchor, you can fish the depths properly.
- On the Fly I have found the fish taking high in the water even on difficult day. That is not to say they are swimming high in the water, but visibility is so good they could easily be 10ft or more down.
- On a cold wind with no fish, seek the calmer water and fish slower.
- AM or Fly anglers. With little wind, look for small flies in the air. This will denote a 'hatch' where they rise from the lakebed as Pupae (shell), break out of the Pupae at the surface and fly off as adults. The Trout will be eating them as they rise from the bottom and as they break out on the surface.

The bad weather and wind today will definitely cool the water a bit and benefit the weekend fishing.

So tight lines and enjoy!

Ray French.

Below: My two late but welcome Trout given to John T for his supper.

