

## BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Week ending Friday 18/10/24

by Ray French.

Plus "Competition results" 🏆🏆

There has been a definite improvement in the fishing this week starting with the Any Method lads last weekend, when there were several rods bagging up with 8 Trout. Although the majority of fish I believe were caught down, there were also fish caught much higher in the water. Having said that, the Fly fishers struggled again with the Trout not showing or taking much, until the middle of this week!!

On Wednesday, Bewl played host to Bewl Bridge Flyfishing Club's annual Team Invitation Boat Competition, featuring 11 teams of 6 rods from England and Europe... "THE GRAND MAX' Competition. The Fly-Fishing event, sponsored by Fordham & Wakefield (Brand Seaguar) using Floating Line only, was fished drifting 'Loch style' to international rules. It was fished all day from 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour break for lunch.

Again, it wasn't easy fishing but for those who have Fly-fished Bewl recently, or read my reports, know how difficult it has been, and this match showed a genuine improvement which is good news at last!

The significant thing was not so much the number of fish caught, more the number of fish seen and that showed interest in the flies. Having said that, it was very much day of mixed fortune. Some rods saw steady action whereas others saw little. I was one of the lucky ones who had fish interest pretty much all day but boated only 2 Trout. I found that in common with others that had caught. But then many had little interest but managed to get a fish 'out of the Blue' to save a blank. Strange day. The biggest problem I found, which was echoed by others, was hooking the fish. They followed or appeared at lift off but would not mouth the fly.

The Result - Facts.

Total fish caught: 147 Rainbows

Rod average: 2.23.

Top 4 teams.

1. Team Seaguar - 37 lb 6.
2. Fly Fishing Forever - 36 lb 12.
3. Tunbridge Wells - 31 lb 2.
4. Bewl Chompers - 26 lb 9.

Largest fish: 3lb 1oz.

Best bag. 14lb 5oz

Both awards to: Mark Tremain - Coker TWFFS

Considering this was a Floating line ONLY competition and there was sun with cloud, the results I think were positive.

## THE FISHING

The fish are now moving about and well spread out, and only occasionally there is evidence of a shoal. My report of last week suggesting that you concentrate on all the water to view from the boat jetty was justified by the Competition.

The main areas were from the Gorse Bushes in Bewl Straight to the Cages in Hook Straight, including the whole of the Main Basin although the majority of boats missed out Hook Straight and Copens Reach. \*

The wind has been a light Southerly this week. In fact, one the best drifts has been from Bewl Straight to the fishing lodge bank, across the middle of the basin and it was on match day. Chingley Point area of Bewl Straight featured well across to Ferry Point as did a drift from Chingley Point across to the Tower by the Dam. The Dam is always a good holding area but is better on a Northerly or S. Westerly. Fish this week have also been spotted in Bewl Straight up to Dunstars so well worth checking out.

As for flies, the Blobs, Fabs, and Boobies did well, with Orange being a favoured colour. But Fry pattern Boobies also caught. A few rods fished Dry flies and caught especially on practice day which had a tad more cloud.

On match day I fished with Alastair Garner. Kindly he did both the engine and Drogue. We fished similar patterns and eventually similar set ups. I alternated between two leader set ups. One was four flies with a Fry pattern Booby on point, two heavy hook Pearly Cormorants on mid droppers and an Orange Blob on top dropper. I put the heavy hooks on to get a bigger sag in the leader to take the Booby down and up using a fig 8 retrieve. I used that in the morning and had one on the Booby drifting long across the Basin. On each drift though I had at least 4 Trout either appear all over the Booby at distance or snapping at the Blob by the boat. Eventually one took the Boob at distance.

In the afternoon it was obvious from the general "chit chat" that orange was doing well, so in the afternoon I switched to a longer leader with just two Orange Blobs and fished them on the pull at various speeds. We did the same long drifts and again I got offers, not as many as the morning but at least 2 to 3 a drift. I did eventually hook up again on the hang. Alastair also went with 2 orange Blobs and had more action in the afternoon than the morning and was finally rewarded with a hook up. Two of my Bewl Chompers team, Baz and Ralf, had done the same long drifts on practice day and had double figures to the boat. On match day they did long drifts again having 5 each. Two Blobs, long leaders.

## SUMMARY

I think this week has shown definite signs of our Autumn fishing taking off but it's not easy. Some rods, both Any Method and/or Fly, have struggled especially in the sun, but I can honestly say I have seen a lot of fish this week, much more than at any time since late July. If those fish being caught at depth on Any Method genuinely start feeding and rise to join the recent stocking, then we are in for a Bonanza. At the moment we are catching the smaller Trout. Smaller because Bewl Water get more for their money and also the smaller fish are reckoned to acclimatise better in the warmer water. But boy do they fight, they certainly give good sport.

## STOCKING

As I understand it, and further to the Bewl Autumn Winter Programme, there are 3 more stockings planned before the end of the year. Keep an eye out for Bewl Facebook news releases for further information.

## BOOKING BOATS...

If you are a weekend angler I suggest you book your fishing ticket early. The weekends are already popular and will fill up quickly now. Autumn and Winter fishing is always good so do not miss out!!

\*Food for thought!

When stocked the Trout bolt left, straight out and right from the stocking apron, yet the majority of us in a boat either go straight out from the jetty or turn left ??

Tight lines, Ray French

Pics below:

Competition Winners....

### 'Team Seaguar'. L to R.

John Frank, Richard Denney Capt, Anthony Fordham. (Seaguar), John Pearn, Phil Thompson, Bob Holland and Chris Bobby.

Plus, a couple of Trout I caught for the table on Tuesday.

