

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT.

Week ending Friday 22 /11/ 2024

by Ray French.

The fishing this week has continued to provide some good sport when weather has permitted, but the freezing conditions and increasing cold wind in the last couple of days has hit hard. It caused the recent Stockies to cease seeking natural food and fry in and on the surface, putting them down in the water. On cold days and as winter approaches this will become the norm. However, they are still catchable and rarely go deeper than 4-6m with 3-4m being the optimum.*

Having said that, on most days, especially in milder weather, the Trout will rise for a couple of hours, usually at Bewl between about 11.30 until 2pm which is normally the warmest part of day. Often, they can be seen cruising or jumping.

*For some reason many of the Trout stocked pre-Summer this season have stayed on the bottom and may well still be. I have not had sufficient information from the Any Method anglers to confirm that, or if they are still catching them. Some of the Trout we have caught recently have been bigger and could well have come from deep albeit they have been caught high or in shallow water. Worth noting that Bewl Water is well down now so 'deep water' will not now be as deep as it was.

THE FISHING

Plenty of fish to be had over the weekend for both Any Method and Fly anglers although they were not easy to catch and again some rods did well, and others struggled. The Any Method anglers with Float and/or Spinners were able to catch fish at variable depths whilst the Fly rods in drifting boats did better nearer the surface on Floating or Intermediate lines. But then come Tuesday the temperature dropped...

...I went out in a boat on Wednesday morning with regular partner John Turner, but such was the conditions we only lasted a couple of hours. It was freezing with a light but very cold North wind. Of the time out I doubt we did more than about 50 minutes actual fishing. Our fingers got so cold we could not tie any knots either with flies to leader or leaders to Fly line. What with that, handling the wet lines and a strengthening wind... it got too much!

In the limited time I was actually fishing I did get a couple of half-hearted takes on the bottom in 4m of water using 2 Boobies and short leader on D18 but neither stuck. I did see an AM guy catch a couple but then he did have a fixed spool reel and gloves on!

I could not get down to Bewl today (Friday). Pity, because out of the wind the sun would have been pleasant. With the water temperature down and relatively clear water the Trout should be active and can see Bait, Fly or Spinner fairly easily.

LOCATION

Most of the regulars, whatever their method, are fishing in and around the Main Bowl and either down as far as the Old Cages in Hook Straight or to the end of Chingley Wood in Bewl Straight. The majority are anchoring, especially in the wind and within 100m from the banks or closer

especially at the Dam. If you are not a regular and seek inspiration keep in the Main Bowl with a watchful eye out for bending rods or fish bags over the side.

SUMMARY

The weather this weekend looks to be warmer especially on Sunday with a Southerly wind which bodes well. On a Southerly, the wind will be blowing from roughly Ferry Point to Canoe Club Corner at the Dam which offers reasonable shelter in the main Bowl.

Beauman's Point to the Cages, the Gorse Bushes to Chingley point, Chingley Point to the Tower and the Southern bank in Bewl Straight are Ideal for those who want to fish off the wind in 'fishy' areas or 'Loch Style' from a drifting boat with Drogue.

Personally, on the Fly, I would mix it with a combination of drifting with Floater or Intermediate lines to fish in the top layers just off the worst of the wind. Or anchoring up, to fish on the bottom with fast sinking line in or off the wind.

While anchored, I would concentrate on fishing a maximum 7m of water, maybe less on a calm day, and if not too rough I would have a go near the banks, especially the windy ones. Having said that, wherever you fish, always check the clarity of the water you are fishing, you want the best you can get.

Tight lines, Ray French.

Picture. A November Morning!

