

# BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## Spring Awakening: When the Fish Stir

With a spell of reliable weather and plenty of action across the reservoir, this week stands out as one of the season's finest. Although the early mornings still carry a hint of Jack Frost and some trees remain bare, the unmistakable signs of spring—and the ensuing movement of the fish—are everywhere. While it hasn't been a non-stop string of big catches, dedicated anglers have enjoyed consistent strikes and even a few exceptional outcomes.

### On the Water

I set out this week in markedly calmer conditions than last week's gusty start. Here's an account of a session that encapsulates much of the prevailing experience:

**Early Start:** Departing from the jetty at 8:30 am with my trusty dog in tow, I navigated roughly fifty yards down the bank toward the Aqua Swim complex and the dam. The sky was mostly clear with a gentle warmth from the sun, and only a slight ripple disturbed Hook Straight.

**The Playground:** This well-loved stretch, offering water depths of 8–12 feet, remains a hotspot for both boat and bank anglers. I began by fishing a slow intermediate line with three flies: a Blob on the top dropper, a Nymph positioned mid-line, and a small Booby at the point. I methodically covered the area by drifting from 80 yards out, motoring back, shifting laterally by 100 yards, and repeating the process. With a minor shift in wind intensity, I transitioned to a Di3 setup—adjusting the flies to a Blob, two Nymphs, and a Booby—to target the 5–8 foot range. However, the fish remained elusive.

**Encouraging Signs:** The water was crystal clear, boasting visibility up to 8 feet.

Encouragement came from Chingley Corner, where I noticed another angler (an advocate of the "Any Method") anchored by the dam and nearby woods, having success with a 'Daglow' lime-green pattern on his fly. After a brief conversation despite a language barrier, it became clear the fish were holding near the bottom.

**A Shift in Tactics:** Spurred on by the activity of several nearby boats and another fly fisherman, I moved into Bewl Straight for a fresh drift. Despite some initial regrets about my

earlier line change, persistence paid off. Mid-drift I experienced subtle tugs—first weak, then more convincing—and eventually, right off the stones, I made a connection. The fish flashed beneath the boat, quickly throwing the hook as it surged away into the deeper water.

**The Breakthrough:** As clouds rolled in and the light faded, it became increasingly evident that the fish were rising. I rigged up a floater with a 20-foot leader, pairing a small FAB on the point with a subtle blob on the dropper. Drifting closer to Chingley Point, I maintained long, slow pulls to keep the leader straight and let the flies suspend naturally. That approach rewarded me with a solid catch—a fish that, like most Bewl catches this season, tipped the scales at a hearty two pounds or more, fighting vigorously all the while.

After drifting steadily between the Straight and the Dam, a series of takes accompanied the shifting light. However, by mid-afternoon—when the wind picked up and the sun blazed overhead—the action dwindled. I managed one final catch on a DI5 fished deep before it was clear that the day's session had run its course.

## **Summary of the Day**

Overall, the pattern this week was unmistakable:

**Early:** Calm, bright conditions kept the fish deep and relatively inactive.

**Mid-Session:** As clouds gathered and a gentle ripple took hold, the fish began to move upward.

**Later:** With renewed wind and a return to bright light, the fish slipped back into their deeper haunts.

A conversation with a fellow angler—who fished a sink-tip rig with a mix of a Lure, Nymph, and Blob—reinforced this pattern, proving that success at Bewl is all about understanding and adjusting to depth.

## **Fishing Forecast**

Looking ahead, the forecast is promising:

**Cloud Cover as an Ally:** Expect more overcast conditions that will drive the fish closer to the surface, making them more susceptible to strikes.

**Bank Anglers' Tactics:** In bright sun, focus on deeper waters using weighted setups like Boobies or Buzzers.

**Surprises in Store:** Earlier in the week, a 6-pound rainbow was landed from the bank with a fly at Dunsters. Keep your gear ready and your eyes peeled—beware, there may be more

surprises on the horizon.

Additionally, the ongoing stocking programme continues to distribute fish evenly across the reservoir, so be prepared to explore both well-known haunts and unexpected spots.

## **Competition Highlights**

### **The Bewl Bank Competition**

On Sunday, 6th April, 14 anglers braved the chilly north-easterly wind to enjoy the sunshine and the thrill of the bank competition.

Performance: The rod average improved to 2.2, a modest yet encouraging increase over last year's 1.9.

Hotspot: Dunsters proved to be the most productive area—fish were biting close to the bank, which meant minimal wading for most competitors.

Winner: John Pearn emerged victorious with a total of 5 fish. He attributed his success to employing a Slow Glass Fly Line (1/2" sink rate) and spacing two flies 8 feet apart, with all of his strikes coming from the top dropper—a Candy FAB—and a deliberate figure-of-eight retrieve that provided ample bumps before the strike.

Other Notables: Congratulations are due to Steve Baugh and Lee Gallant, who each landed 3 fish, and a warm welcome to new member Barney, who made a strong impression in his first bank competition. Winners were rewarded with a box of flies and a voucher from our sponsor.

### **Bewl Water Kayak Fishing Championship**

Round 1 Results!

The first round of the 2025 BWKFC season—hosted by Flecks 'N Kayaks in a trout-only format—kicked off with impressive energy and a mix of strategic play and skill:

Top 5 after Round 1:

Richard Archer

Mark Radcliffe

Martin Collison

Alexander Apostoiu

David Jacobs

### **Championship Format:**

Each round awards points based on placement (1 point for 1st, 2 points for 2nd, etc.).

The angler with the lowest combined score over all three events will be crowned the 2025 Champion.

Additionally, all registered participants in all three events will be entered into a prize draw to win a fishing kayak—simply for taking part!

### **Up Next:**

Mark your calendars for the 4th edition of the Bewl Water Kayak Fishing Competition, scheduled for 3–4 May 2025. Now's the time to hone your skills and make your mark on the leaderboard!

Until next time, keep those lines tight and enjoy every moment on the water.

Bewl Phantom