



East Cape Regional Chapter

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Chairmans Report – 2016 AGM **Amatola Club House – Gubu dam** 5th November 2016

Dear Members,

Firstly, thank you for taking the trouble to attend our 2016 AGM. As always, it is a pleasure to hold this event at Gubu, where we can (hopefully) catch some Trout and socialise after the business side is completed. This is a great venue and is a tribute to the Amatola Club Committee, headed by Edward Truter. This will be a brief report, as most of what I need to say will be covered in more detail in the Agenda categories to follow.

The relentless drought continues in many areas and has had a very negative impact on especially Trout waters in the North Eastern Cape in the Maclear and Rhodes areas. Some of these rivers may take years to recover. The scientists say that El Nino will be changing to El Nina fairly soon, so perhaps normal rainfall patterns will eventually prevail. In our many still waters that are still fishable, some really good Trophy Trout have been caught, more on this under Club reports, item 7 on the Agenda.

The whole NEM:BA debate regarding the future of Trout is still ongoing, the last 6 months or so have been devoted to the “Trout Mapping” exercise, whereby each Province was required to map their waters through SANBI to show where “Trout Are” as a basis for further negotiations with the DEA. Alan Hobson, Martin Davies and myself attended several meetings in Grahamstown at the DEDEA offices in an attempt to sort out these maps, culminating in a final meeting with Heather Terrapon of SANBI where we reached consensus on “Where Trout Are”. The upshot of this exercise was that 46 % of the land area of the Eastern Cape has been mapped Green, the colour designated for indicating where Trout are presently being stocked or are present through natural breeding. The mapping exercise has been completed in all of the other Provinces as well, the next step will be a horse trading process with Guy Preston and his DEA team to get them to recognise and accept our maps. I am quietly confident that all of our important waters in the Eastern Cape will remain Green.

Promoting, developing and marketing Fly-Fishing in the Eastern Cape as the destination of choice for local, National and International anglers.



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The FOSAF National AGM / EXCO meeting has been held in Johannesburg for many years now, hosted by the Northvaal Chapter. A decision was made at EXCO level earlier this year to rotate this event to the various Chapters in future and East Cape has been nominated to host the event in 2017. We have accepted this nomination and your Chapter Committee have agreed that the best venue will be Somerset East, with the meeting to be held at Alan Hobsons' Angler and Antelope Guest House over the long week end Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May, with the actual AGM and EXCO meetings being held on Saturday 29th April. This proposal was accepted during an EXCO Skype meeting last Wednesday, so it is all systems go and the incoming EC Chapter Committee will be responsible for organising this event. With Alan Hobson essentially hosting the event and making the Bankberg waters available to all over the week end, I expect everything to run smoothly.

As we all know, Martin Davies, through his single minded and dogged determination, is the one individual way above all others who is responsible for 46 % of the Eastern Cape waters being coloured Green. Martin can drive us all mad sometimes, but you could not wish for a better friend and I am convinced that, without Martin being involved in this whole Trout thing since the mid 1980's, we would not be sitting here today holding this meeting. Unfortunately, Martin finally retires in December and will no longer be directly employed by Rhodes University in running the Trout Hatchery, but will be available on a contract basis as and when required. He can enlarge on this in more detail during his brief Fish Supplies Report, item 10 on the Agenda.

Martin will be receiving official recognition for his services and contribution to Fly Fishing for Trout in Southern Africa during the FOSAF AGM/EXCO next year in Somerset East, suffice to say that we all wish him well and hope to spend many more hours with him on the water, catching his Trophy Trout. This will be my final Chairmans Report, as I will be stepping down as Chairman today. We have finally found an individual who I think will be ideally suited to this job and I will be nominating him under Election of Office Bearers, item 13 on the Agenda. I will not be walking away and will still be available to serve on the Committee in support of the newly elected Chairman. It has been a pleasure and an honour to have served as Chairman of the East Cape Chapter for the past 4 years. Thank you.

Brian Clark

5 November 2016

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