



# NEWSLETTER January 2020

**Chairman:** John New (039 681 3459) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Liaison:** Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005)  
**Secretary and Records Clerk:** Sean Tharratt (079 434 6168) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (039 681 3274) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

## Preparing to cast.

I trust that you all had a very Happy and Holy Christmas, and that you will see the New Year in with an appropriate toast and that you are all ready to take on whatever 2020 throws at you. A short newsletter to start, but it has a fair amount of info regarding up-coming events and outings. Make sure that you get your monies worth, by attending them all.

## Events Calendar

| <u>Date</u>                                 | <u>Event</u>          | <u>Venue</u>               | <u>Time</u>     |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January                     | Committee meeting     | Arthur's home              | 18h00 for 18h30 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January                    | Bass Outing           | Hoatson's dam              | 06h00           |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> January                    | Fly tying Workshop    | Neil's home                | 18h15 for 18h30 |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> January                    | Salt outing           | "Tweni                     | 06h00           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> January                    | Grub & travel meeting | Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club | 18h00           |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January                    | Monthly meeting       | Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club | 18h00 for 18h30 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> February | Yellowfish outing     | Quantani                   | TBA             |

**Note:** The venue for the meeting on the 30th January will be confirmed by SMS from Steve closer to the time, as the Ski Boat Club may not be suitable.

## Coming Events.

The committee will sort out the **calendar of events for the first couple of months at their meeting on 8th January.** If you have any ideas for an outing, drop a line to Arthur now and your suggestion will be considered.

Flies for the coming year will also be decided, so if you have a favourite that you would like to tie, contact a committee member. Remember, a recipe and a photo or a sample is required.

The **bass outing on the 12th is to Hoatson's dam in the Nabeni (Harding) district.** Turn right (north) at the sign to Bongwana; about 55 km from Port Shepstone. It is a big dam, so kick boats are required. If you want to travel in convoy, meet at the Shell Garage just west of the toll road in Marburg at 05h00. Bring your braaiables and liquid refreshments.

At the **fly tying workshop, being held at Neil's home on Tuesday 12th January (18h15 for 18h30)** we will tie the saltwater Surf Puff and the freshwater Marabou and Copper. The Surf Puff has been selected in place of the Viper, for which a suitable recipe and photo could not be found. Recipes have been sent out to members.

The **saltwater outing to 'Tweni on the 26th** should produce some fish; the up-country visitors will have left by then and the shad have, of late been biting very well.

**A grub meeting is being held on 27th January** for John, Dick and Arthur who are going up to **Sterkfonten on the 3rd of February** for the yellowfish outing. *(Mike and Tony, we will contact you before the meeting and let you know the drill.)*

As noted above, the Ski Boat Club may not be a suitable venue for our meetings, following the completion of the renovations and the club now being run more as a restaurant.

If this is the case, a new venue will be sought. Members, will however be notified in due course by SMS from Steve and by e-mail from Arthur, where the next meeting will be held.



## Past Events.

### Christmas outing to Steve's dam. Saturday 30th November 2019. By David Schwartz.

When the Schwartz family arrived at about 6:00 am, John and Arthur were already starting to set up their kick boats. The early morning calm was shattered by an expletive from Arthur, who had forgotten his elastic cords to tie his frame to the pontoons. It was however soon sorted out with a little help from his friends. When the time comes, a good fine for the Master at Arms will be appropriate.

*(Arthur's so called expletive was, "Oh dear, I've forgotten the stretchies." Ed.)*

John was keen to try out his new rod and was on the water first. It was not long before he had a fair sized bass. Ken and David were soon on the water and Ken also landed a fair sized bass. Things looked promising.

More members arrived as the morning wore on. Pat, Steve and Mitch fished from kick boats. Rob and Sakkie from the bank. Stan and Francis were the last to arrive, not to fish, but to give moral support from the bank.

For most, the early morning promise did not materialize, with no fish being caught. Not so for John, whose new rod worked a treat and he landed two more bass. By about 9:30 am almost everyone was off the water or had stopped fishing from the bank. Ken decided to give it a last spin around the dam, using a floating line and a popper. He hooked a big bass casting into the weed, close to the wall. After a bit of a tussle including a bit of tail walking, the bass won and was lost in the weeds. Lessons learnt: a 4 weight rod is a bit light for a big bass when there is a lot of weed and it helps to have a landing net.

John fished on the surface and caught on a Grasshopper, a 3 Bead Spider and "John's Go To Fly". For the fish that he landed, Ken was fishing with an intermediate line and a Red Setter. The dam was full and clean with a lot of heavily weeded areas. Steve needs to be complimented on the overall condition of the dam and the surrounds.

The braai under the trees was as social as ever. Thanks again to Steve for the arrangements.

### Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Raffle tickets for the draw at the prize giving function are available from Piet. Make sure that you get a list, fill it and return it with the money before the end of February.



Dick has a couple of fly fishing items that he wishes to dispose of. These include an Explorer Fly Fishing Vest, a pair of Snobee Waders and the Bill Hansford Steele fly tying book, "Flies for Africa." He suggested that these be auctioned at the January monthly meeting, so bring along a buck or two and take home a real bargain.



I know that the AGM in March is a long way off, but start giving some thought as to who you would like to have on the committee for 2020. It may be a good idea to start with your own name at the top of the list, many of the current members have been serving for a long long time and a change could be welcome.

Committee pay is good, many perks to be had, you cannot be fired, (slaves are put up for sale), you get first option on any shares that are available, etc, etc. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

### Last Cast.

Enough bull from my pen for a while, so let me just wish you all the very best for the New Year. Have yourselves a Very Merry time, but if you are going to a party, get yourself a taxi or a non-drinking driver. As I have said before, the dams in Polsmoor, Sonderwater and Pretoria Central are not very well stocked. See you around.

Cheers Arthur

