



# NEWSLETTER June 2022

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**Chairman:** John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistowe (082 453 8618)  
**Liaison and Records Clerk:** Pieter vd Merwe (083 543 7005) **Scribe:** Arthur Cary (039 681 3274) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)  
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## Preparing to cast.

A real whopper of a newsletter this month with reports on three private trout outings, a note for the record on the farewell to Bill and Sharon, as well as articles on rather disappointing bass and saltwater outings. A stout effort on the part of the various contributors. Thank you.

Cast an eye on the Calendar of coming events, and make a note thereof, so that you don't miss out on the outings planned for June and July.

## Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	Early
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Salt water outing	Trafalgar	07h00
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Committee meeting	Pieter's home	18h00
9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Estuary outing	The Pont	TBD
13 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Salt water outing	Ramsgate	07h00
28 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

## Coming Events.

Neil, John, Stan and Sakkie, Steve, Pieter, and Liam are the candidates for the trip to **Wattled Crane, which is from Friday 10th to Monday 13th June.**

As usual, the **fly tying workshop, on Wednesday 15th June, is being held at Neil's home.** We will tie the Surf Candy and the Griffith's Gnat, which are the respective salt and fresh water flies for June. Members will have received the recipes by the time this newsletter goes out.

The **saltwater outing to Trafalgar, on Sunday 26th June will hopefully produce some fish, including shad, so be there.** No braai facilities, I'm afraid, but bring your sarmies and coffee.

**Monthly meeting at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 30th June. The Grub 'n travel meeting for the Pont week-end on 9th and 10th July,** will be held after the monthly meeting.

Committee members note that there is a **Committee meeting at Pieter's home on Wednesday 6th July at 18h00.**

## Past Events.

**Trout outing to Wattled Crane by Neil Scott, John Neaves and Dick Plaistowe. Monday 9th to Thursday 12th April.** By Dick Plaistowe.

Nothing could sum up this great trip to Wattled Crane, better than John Neaves' comment, that the Club members are truly blessed to have such a high quality trout fishing destination, in such close proximity to us and that we should treat it as our home venue.

We were admittedly blessed with fine weather, almost windless days, baring one afternoon when it was windy, but manageable, clean water, minimal weed and fish in superb condition and full of fight. In fact, John was so enthusiastic and full of praise that he believes that the SCFA should make an offer to Cathy Raw to contribute to the stocking of the dam, without any conditions, as a matter of goodwill; a proposal that I support and will raise with the Committee for the members consideration.



The one concern that all three of us have and which I think promoted John's suggestion to contribute to the stocking cost, was the complete absence of any obvious "Stockies" or fish of varying sizes, in line with a consistent stocking of the dam. In fact all the 28 fish netted were of a similar size and weight, roughly from 40 to 50 cms and weighing 3 to 4 pounds, which was almost bizarre- not one smaller one which prompts the question as to when the dam was last stocked and with how many and what size fish?? As we all know, of course we do, because Stephen took a photograph to confirm it, there are some larger fish in the dam. Cathy is understood to have stocked in 2021, but not 2020 being the Covid year. I've undertaken to contact Cathy and raise this concern with her, but would prefer to do so once the club has made a decision regarding the stocking contribution. Obviously, we all have a vested interest in the dam being stocked regularly and with sufficient fish.

For the record, Neil caught 12 fish, John caught 10-ish fish (he actually told me that he caught "around the same as Neil" so I made it a fisherman's "around the same" and also because I reasoned that if he'd caught 12 he would have told me it was 12,) and Dick caught 6, which included the only fish on the last day, which was obviously more difficult (otherwise more fish would've been caught !!!!) Not one rise was seen over the four days and all the fish were caught with weighted flies on floating, intermediate and sinking lines, depending on where in the dam we were fishing. The top end was particularly productive. Flies included the usual suspects- black Woolly Buggers and the like, Paparoach and the like, GRHE, leaches, damsels etc.

A final note for future visitors. We realised that someone in the visiting party needs to have an axe or hatchet to prepare kindling for the fire, particularly with the colder nights ahead. Unfortunately we didn't have one- thank goodness one of the party was brought up where frontier fire making skills were required, where men are men, women are Sheila's and some say that sheep are nervous- no names no pack drill.

#### **Farewell braai to Bill and Sharon Derman. Saturday 14th May.**

Members of South Coast Fly Anglers are always ready for a get-together, so it was no surprise that there was a good turnout of members and their spouses or partners, for the farewell to Bill and Sharon. This was held at the home of John and Lynn on Saturday 14th June.

John thanked Bill for his services to the club over the past 20 years, to which Bill replied, saying that he had really enjoyed his time with the club, and would miss the camaraderie of the members, but that the time had come for he and Sharon to move on. (*They are relocating to Pretoria.*)

Steve, who has certainly had a lot of practise, again produced a great braai fire and even the intermittent heavy showers of rain could not put a damper on the afternoon.

#### **Bass outing to Voigt's Dam. Sunday 15th May.** By Arthur Cary.

A mere 8 fish were caught by the anglers who turned up for this outing. The weather was decidedly iffy, with low cloud, squalls of rain and not much promise of an improvement on the horizon. Rob, Neil, John, Warren, Conner, visitor Ellia, Ken, David, Steve and Arthur headed for the shelter of the lapa, until there was a break and lo and behold, the weather suddenly lifted to produce a stunning morning.

Unfortunately, the fish did not get the message, so few came for breakfast. Those that did were small, although John and Ken each got a fish of over 12 inches, so it looks as though the April culling is beginning to have a positive effect on the size of the fish coming out.

Over the normal braai we solved the few problems that had not been sorted out at the previous day's farewell and we headed homewards just as the wind started to pick up. A pleasant enough morning, considering that early on, it did not seem as though we would wet a line at all.

#### **Final score:**

Conner and John 3 each, using Walker's Killer, Dave's Demon and John's "Go to Fly," Warren and Arthur each caught 2 on Hamill's and Walker's Killers, while Ken got one on a Red Setter. Brewer's Droop in one of his pontoons resulted in his relocating to the bank, from which he did not get a touch.

Rob and first timer Ellia did not manage to get a decent bite. Steve and Neil did not see the value in setting up their boats and having to wash all their tackle, after a blank and wet morning. While the water was a little clearer than it had been on our last outing in March, it is still very discoloured and it will be a while yet, before conditions are ideal.



**Trout outing to Mountain Lake by Stan Park, Sakkie McCay and Neil Scott. Monday 16th to Thursday 19th April.** By Stan Park.

At last we were able to get up the mountain, without too much trouble. Parts of the road were a bit difficult, but we got through

Sakkie caught seven rainbows, of which one weighed 3.1 kg and another of just on 3 kg. Stan got 12, which comprised 7 nice fish of over 2.5 kg (biggest fish weighed 2.9 kg) and 5 stockies.

Neil came up on the Tuesday and only stayed one night. He managed to land 6 fish, (1 stockie and 5 decent sized fish.)

The weather changed for the worse on Wednesday and only one fish was caught, so we packed up on the Thursday and headed for home

**Monthly Meeting. Thursday 26th May. Umtentweni Tennis Club.**

**Present:** 12 members. **Apologies:** Dick, Jaco, Bill, Conner, Warren, Mike and Sakkie.

**Flies of the Month:** Judged by Liam

**Freshwater: Flash Back Nymph:** Neil, Neil, Sean, Sean, Arthur, John.

**Saltwater: Slinky Fibre Bait Fish:** Neil, Neil, Sean, Arthur.

**Coming Events:**

The proposed trip to the Umzimkulu mouth has been postponed, due to the current state of the river. Kevin will inspect the Trafalgar area and decide if it is worth trying there. Steve to send out an SMS to inform members. *(The promised SMS arrived, but as you can see by the article from John, Impenjati was also a no show for the chaps who tried there. Ed)*

Neil, John, Steve, Stan, Sakkie, Pieter and Liam are going to Wattled Crane from Friday 10th June to Monday 13th June.

There is a saltwater outing planned for the Trafalgar area on 26th June.

**General:**

Mitch tabled two books donated by local angler Malcolm Carr. "Bass Fishing in Southern Africa" and "Fresh and Saltwater Fly Fishing." Both books by Charles Norman will be held by John in the club's library and can be borrowed by members at any time.

Ian reported that the Umzimkulu river is very deep at the moment, having been scoured out by the recent heavy rains. When the water clears, this area should provide excellent fishing.

Stan gave a report on the recent trip to Mountain Lake. *(See report above. Ed.)*

Steve reported on a friend's visit to Wattled Crane, where fishing was excellent, producing many fish of over 500 mm.

Steve also tabled the financial report, showing that the club's finances are very healthy indeed.

Liam gave an account of his two month sojourn in Angola, where he crewed on a wealthy Capetonian's 48 ft. luxury boat.

They fished mainly for Blue Marlin using lures and bait, trawled along the colour line, but also caught Bonito, for bait, a few Dorado for the pot as well as many other species. His spectacular videos of the fishing, bear testament to the excitement of the moment when a big fish is hooked. "Organised chaos" on a huge scale. All the Marlin were safely released, as soon as the leader could be cut close to the hook. They hooked one monster specimen, estimated to weigh over 1000 lb, but after a 3 hour fight, the crimping lug to the leader parted and the fish departed back to the blue. All marlin that were hooked were estimated to weigh over 500 lb, so this is a sport designed to test the stamina of an angler in a big way.

As the owner is not into fly fishing, Liam's opportunities with the fly, were limited, but he nevertheless managed to get a few bonito and dorado with his 12 wt.

The meeting closed with the usual successful braai.

**Saltwater outing to Impenjati. Sunday 29th May.** By John New.

Four guys ventured down to Impenjati to see what it was like. Steve, Neil, Dick and John tried their luck, but the water was far too dirty.

We tried the sea and then the river all to no effect. We then sat for awhile talking and drinking coffee. Although there were a few rises in the river it was very still. We soon decided to pack up and go home. Next time maybe??



**Saltwater outing to Impenjati. Sunday 29th May.** By Stephen Brand.

Dick, Neil John and Steve all arrived at the car park just before 7 am, where we sat and had coffee until the sun came up, which was stunning and then headed down to the mouth and the breakers. Dick decided he was only going to watch and to walk along the beach, while the three of us first tried the mouth and then the breakers in the surf. Unfortunately it was to no avail.

John waded into the lagoon at the mouth, as he had seen a couple of rises, but he said that when his fly hit the bottom, a plume of silt made a cloud in the water, so the fish, if they were there, would see nothing. After about an hour, we threw in the towel and retreated back to the parking area for more coffee and a chat about fishing. We all left around 09h30.

**A trio's Trout trip to Mountain Lake. Friday 27th May to Sunday 29th May.** Verbal report from Dean Angove.

Dean and two friends, Ernest and Hugo Botha, took a quick trip to Matat. in a two-x-four vehicle, leaving long before sparrow on Friday morning and arrived there at 05h00. They had a cup of coffee in town, waiting for the sun to rise, so that they could select the correct track up the mountain. Get it wrong and you have to retrace your steps, as Stan found out a week before. The road is muddy, but can be negotiated fairly easily in a high-rise vehicle.

There was a stiff westerly blowing when they got to the lake and this persisted all day and all night for the duration of their stay. In fact on the Sunday, they packed up early to escape the bitterly cold wind, which was coming straight off the Drakensberg mountains.

Undaunted, they launched and Dean hooked and landed a fish of 1.5 kg after two strips on his first throw, using a Black Woolly Bugger. They finished with a total of 33 fish, the majority of which were in the 1.5 kg to 2 kg range (the biggest, caught by Dean, pulled the scale to 2.5 kg.)

Hugo got 5, only 1 stockie and 4 nice fish, the biggest weighed 2.1 kg. Ernest, on only his second fly fishing trip caught 4, all in the 1.5 to 2 kg range.

Camping is the only option at the moment, as the cottage has not ben repaired after being vandalised. (The staff apparently refuse to go up to effect repairs as the road is "Too bad.")

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



The Natal Sharks Board have to date made a few of their normal "Sardine-spotting-trips south," checking on sardine activity. Reports indicate that the water is very dirty all the way down to Hole in the Wall.

Although there is a lot of whale, dolphin and gannet activity and many pockets of sardines have been seen, especially in the East London area, there is no guarantee that the silver hoards will reach us and if they do, they may well be out of reach in the clearer water. Again a case of "Wait and see."



**Last Cast.**

Nope, nothing to add.

Cheers Arthur.

