



# NEWSLETTER March 2021

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**Chairman:** John New (078 203 4549) **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)  
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## Preparing to cast.

We have a very short Events Calendar this month, but never fear, we will fill it up after the committee meeting with a host of, what we trust, will be fruitful outings for the next few months. Only one outing to report on, not many fish, but good fellowship from the good turnout of members.

## Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Committee meeting	John's home	18h00
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Prize Giving	Steve's home	16h00
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Saltwater outing	Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club	Early
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Flytying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Yellowfish outing	Quantani	TBA
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Annual General Meeting	Tweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

## Coming Events.

The **committee meeting is at John's home on Wednesday 3rd March.**

Prize giving on **Saturday 6th March at 16h00**, will take the form of a bring your own meat for the braai at the **home of Steve and Olga**. As usual, salads and desert will be supplied by the committee.

We have a **saltwater outing to the Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club on Sunday 7th March**. Be there at any time after curfew opens at 04h00. We will again not be able to braai, so we will have breakfast at the Ski Boat Club afterwards.

Although we do not have a fly tying competition in March, we will still have a **fly tying workshop at Neil's home on Wednesday 10th March**. Neil will tie the Hi Viz Midge using CDC and the "split thread technique." We will also discuss **grub 'n travel plans for the upcoming Sterkfontein trip**, so we look forward to seeing Ian and Sakkie there as well.

Neil, is hosting Sakkie, Ian and Arthur at his Sterkfontein timeshare from **Monday 15th March to Friday 19th**. He has also promised to teach them how to catch a yellow. *(A tall order indeed, given the quality of at least one of the students . Ed)*

The **AGM will be held on Thursday 25th March at the 'Tweni Tennis Club, at 18h00 for 18h30**. Bring your own meat and buy your refreshments from the bar. Chaps, lets have a good turn-out for this one.

Subs are again due, so get into Steve's good books by paying up early. R110.00 for single members and R160.00 for family members. Joining fee is R30.00 and R40.00 for the two categories respectively. *(Show me another club in the world, any club, where you get as much bang for your buck as you do from SCFA. Ed.)*

**In the longer term:** The Umzimkulu is still flowing dark brown and unsuitable for scalie fishing, but Piet is keeping an eye on it. Expect a short-notice SMS from Steve when conditions improve.

This has been said many times, but is worth repeating, "If any member has any venue that he wishes to visit, mention it to a committee member or bring it up at a meeting and it will be considered for addition to the Events Calendar.



## Past Events.

### Saltwater outing to Trafalgar. Sunday 21st February. By Arthur Cary.

It is thanks to John and Sean that this outing did not turn out to be a total blank. Mitch, Ken, David, Rob, Steve, Warren, Connor, visitor Nick and Arthur could not manage a fish between them, and even the presence of Marion and Sean's better half, Stacey, could not coax a fish to take their offerings. Excuses offered varied from, "murky water with a lot of sea-weed-debris floating around, water too cold and wind starting to get up from the south." While these statements are all true, they are after all only excuses for casts that were not on target and the target had to be no further than a few centimetres from the fish, because of the low-viz conditions,.

On to the positives: John managed to get a decent sized Moonie and a small Wave Garrick to take his White Death, while Sean landed two small wave Garrick on a Chartreuse Crazy Charlie. Sean's second fish was so small that when Stacey tried to take a photo of it with a cell phone, the initial reading was "No subject." It was only when she zoomed in really close, did the camera recognize the fish! (*Now, now jealousy makes you nasty, very nasty. Check out the record book, Sean two, writer nothing. Ed*)

Although we could not braai, we had a very enjoyable natter in the car park, before heading to Mac's store at the entrance to Trafalgar, for a couple of their freshly baked Chelsea Buns.

### Monthly meeting. 'Tweni Tennis Club. Thursday 25th February.

**Present:** 14 members, unfortunately no visitors. **Apologies:** Dick, Bill, Ken, David, Jaco and Pieter.

**Flies of the Month Competition.** Judged by Steve

**Saltwater: Mylar Sprat:** Sean, Neil, Arthur and John.

**Freshwater: Steve's Dragon:** John, Neil, Arthur and Sean

If members have any fly that they would like to have included in the list of flies for next year's competition, send your list to me at < caryaj@xsinet.co.za > and it will be considered at the committee meeting, to be held at John's home on Wednesday 3rd March. We have a fair list of freshwater flies, but new saltwater patterns are in short supply.

Sean gave a brief verbal account of the KZNFFA trials which were held at Tendela at the beginning of the month. (*See report by Pieter in last month's newsletter. Ed.*) He and Jaco will again be fishing trials on the Bushman's River, this week end. Tight lines to you both.

Sean has announced that he will not be available for committee duties next year, so we are looking for a "volunteer " to fill the vacancy. He currently holds the highly paid positions of Secretary and Records Maintenance Manager. (*The short title of "Records Clerk" at the head of this newsletter is just to save space!! Ed.*) Come on chaps, contact John and be first in the queue.

A number of members have returned their raffle forms and money to Steve, but there are still many forms outstanding. Steve needs these **before prize giving on Saturday 6th March.**

SCFA finances are healthy, but will be even better with the addition of your raffle money.

### Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Neil spent a few days up at St Lucia and Cape Vidal where he only managed to catch one small Wave Garrick. The weather was upset by the low pressure area hanging around Madagascar and Mozambique, which turned the sea onto its head and it developed a short sharp chop, making for very uncomfortable fly fishing conditions. The south wind, which cropped up every day, did nothing to improve matters and only added to his discomfort.



Fishing the Umzimkulwana River, upstream of the Parks Board picnic site, Sean managed to get a number of scalies. He found nymphing with a very fine tippet, to be the most efficient method of hooking his quarry. (*Note: This was before the latest heavy rains, so check the river before you try. Ed*)

### Last Cast.

It is not always easy to finish the newsletter right at the end of a page, but in the interests of saving readers having to wade through my blurb, I have managed to do just that. Cheers Arthur.

