



# NEWSLETTER November 2019

**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.

We have enough of a variety of outings and events this month to keep even the most discerning member happy. Grab the opportunity with both hands. Hope to see you at all of them.

## Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Bass Outing	Voight's Dam	06h00
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Salt outing	Trafalgar Swimming pool	06h00
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Monthly meeting	Buccaneers Pub. St Mike's	18h00 for 18h30
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas outing	Steve's dam	06h00

## Coming Events.

At the **fly tying workshop, being held at Neil's home on Tuesday 5th November (18h15 for 18h30)** we will tie the saltwater Rainbow Mohawk and the freshwater Morris Foam Predator. As usual, members should have received the recipes for both flies by now. If not, give Arthur a shout.

Water temperatures and levels of the local dams are well up after the recent hot weather and good rains, so we should expect some decent fish from the outing to **Voight's dam on Sunday 10th November**. Be there any time from 06h00 or earlier. We will have a braai afterwards, so bring the necessary.

We have not fished this area before, but **Trafalgar on Sunday 24th** is the place to be. Get there at first light in order to take advantage of the cooler weather and before the south westerly comes through.

The **monthly meeting on Thursday 28th** is the last meeting of the year, so let's make it a bumper show. As the Ski Boat Club is currently undergoing renovations, the meeting will again be held at The Buccaneer Pub on the north bank of the Umhlangeni River at St Michaels. A fire will be available, so bring your pattie and slices of bread!!

With Christmas just around the corner, we will be holding our **Christmas outing on Saturday 30th November at Steve's dam**. Steve will supply the braai fire, but bring your own meat, salads and liquid refreshments, as well as a chair.

## Past Events.

**Matat/Compass Trout Compo. 5th and 6th October.** By Sean Tharratt.

The weekend of the combined Matat and Compass Compo had arrived. Friday the anglers from the South Coast travelled up at different times. Stan and Sakkie were at the lake early morning already and the rest arrived in the afternoon with Liam, Justin and friend Josh arriving at about 8 pm that night.

Stan and Sakkie had done a bit of cleaning up of the cottage for us as they said it was in a dirty state when they arrived. Thank you for the effort. The afternoon was spent rigging up kick boats and tackle so as to be ready first thing in the morning to get onto the water. After socialising a bit with the rest of the guys up at the lake and registering for the compo, we had a quick braai and a few beverages and then it was off to bed.

It was coolish at night, but very pleasant and we didn't even use the fireplace in the cottage. Saturday morning we all were up at around 4:30 am to get an early start to be ready to fish. The sun came up just after 5 am and there were already a few rises. The siren went off and it was time to fish. We expected fishing to be tough, but we were in for a shock as it was really tough! Some fish were still in a late spawning state and there were no grass lines by which one could find the fish.



The area around the cottage didn't produce any fish, so most anglers moved to the other side of the lake. Stan caught a rainbow of 1.9 kg early the morning, but released it again as he thought he would be getting more fish and that one was too small. Around 10 am Sean changed his fly to a Papa Roach and first cast got a good tug on the line and managed a 58 cm rainbow cockfish that weighed 1.64 kg. It was a very skinny fish. Jaco was fishing near Sean and as soon as Sean got a bite, he also got a solid pull that straightened his fly rod and unfortunately broke off his light tippet. It got very hot late morning and some headed to the cottage for a bite to eat and a snooze. We went out for an afternoon session till dark, but didn't get a touch at all. Stan and Sean were on the other side of the lake and Stan offered to give Sean a lift back to the cottage. We put kick boats side by side and off we went, as Stan had a sneaker motor on; it worked rather well. We had a lovely spit braai again, as we do each year at the compo. Liam and Justin managed to each get a fish off the jetty Saturday night. Jaco and Dean Angove also tried their luck at the night fishing but were unsuccessful.

Stan got up early at 3:30 am on Sunday to get an early start, and headed across the lake. The rest of us couldn't get up that early, as we were in recovery mode. Sunday morning was perfect weather. Warm and barely any wind. Just after 5 am Sean managed to drag himself out of bed to have a look at the water for any activity. Across from the jetty in the middle of the lake there were lots of rises and Sean decided to just go and sit there and fish a hopper and see what happens. First cast out and just started stripping the line was already moving around. A sneaky 1.7 kg rainbow hen had sipped the fly without being noticed. That fish went to the weigh station and Sean headed back out to the same spot after a few casts he went right across to the opposite side from the jetty as there was no one fishing there and tried his luck there. Sean noticed a fish swimming in the shallows right against the side between a bit of grass. A few casts were made but no takers. Staying in that area a few minutes later Sean noticed that fish was still in the grass and tried a few casts again with no luck. Then the fish swam to a patch of grass a few metres away and Sean made a cast about 1 metre on the right of the swirl. The fly seemed to just land on the water and a big mouth came out of the water and crunched down on the fly. Hook was set and fish ON!!!

A big tail thrashed the water and keeping tension the fish swam towards Sean and he kicked towards the grass so the fish would swim away from the grass. At first thinking it was a small fish waiting to see what the fish was going to do it just stayed deep and swam around slowly; tell tale signs of a brown trout. I didn't see that fish until halfway into the fight, I just saw it's tail. It didn't want to give me any gap to get it to the surface. I just had to be patient as I knew it was a good fish..After a few headshakes and evading my net a few times I managed to get it to the surface and into the net. The whole lake heard the moment of successful capture, as I let out a shout of relief. I kept the fish in the net and in the water and made the long kick back to the other side. When I got close Dale and Shane were already on the way down to me to inspect my catch. We did a quick weight and measurement and a photo then I got into the water to revive the fish and made sure it swam away on its own.

It was a brown trout of 2.46 kg and 65 cm in length, which put me in the number one spot, surpassing the then current leading fish by 500 grams. I ended my fishing after that, as the wind also picked up. The rest of the guys fished for a few more hours and decided to call it quits. Jaco managed to get a 1.52 kg rainbow hen after many hours on the water on Sunday morning. A short while before the cut off time for fishing, a 2.2 kg fish was weighed in.

### **Final results**

**Sean** 1st place heaviest fish

**Jaco** got 9th place. Good going for his first compo and just reward for the many hours spent on the water. Well done Jaco.

The rest of the guys got prizes in the lucky draw.

We also won the Compass Compo as well, with Sean's brown trout of 65 cm long, being the longest fish.

**Salt outing to the Ski Boat Club.** Sunday 20th October. By Arthur Cary.

If our newsletter reports on salt water outings, were based only on fish caught, they would be very short indeed, and you would already nearly have finished reading this article on our outing to the Ski Boat Club. Without any padding, it would be a very dull read, so enjoy the extras!!! Steve, Ken, David, Mike, Sean, John and Arthur gave it a really good go, using Deceivers, Charlies, Orange Ruffies and even a Sea Louse pattern (this month's salt water FotM.) Marion and Mitch were ready, as always to carry the booty, but their support was not required. Keep coming, nevertheless, as One Of These Days .....



Only Mike with a small Wave Garrick (taken on a white deceiver) and Ken with a Toby (grey and white Crazy Charlie,) bothered the weigh master. Ken was a bit miffed to have lost his Ruffy fly when he was bitten off, presumably by a shad. He was even more miffed though, when a rogue wave almost turned him inside out. He had wisely brought along a change of clothes and we consequently did not get refused entry to Mojo's, when we pitched up for a hearty breakfast. This, after having given up the unequal fight against the north easterly, which started as a light breeze, but picked up, as the morning progressed. All in all we had a very pleasant morning, despite the lack of success. See you at Trafalgar on Sunday 24th November. Mitch, your gaff will definitely be required so bring it along!!!!!!

**Monthly Meeting, Thursday 30th October.**

**Present:** 15 members and German visitor, Jürgen Teeder. Jurgens, born in Vanderbyl Park, now hails from Bavaria and is out here on a short holiday. Although not a fly fisherman, he targets pike in the lakes around his home.

**Apologies:** John, Sakkie, Bianca and Duane.

**Fly of the Month competition.** Judged by Bill.

**Freshwater: Red Setter:** Sean, David, Neil, Pat, David, John, Pat, Arthur.

**Saltwater: Sea Louse:** Neil, Arthur, Pat, Pat, Sean.

**General:**

Arthur asked members to give some thought to flies that we should tie next year. If you have a preference for any particular pattern, drop a line to Arthur or discuss it at the November meeting. (The Velcro Crab and the ubiquitous Woolly Bugger, have been suggested.)

Neil gave a short report on his trip to Mozambique. While not specifically a fly fishing outing, in order not to receive a hefty fine, he took along his fly tackle, and landed a 'couta for his efforts.

The new bridge and road through Kozi Bay made the trip far easier than in the past and the officials at the numerous road blocks, are now far more tourist friendly than they were, some years ago.

The group stayed in accommodation, some 150 km north of Villancoulas and had the use of 3 boats, complete with skippers.

The fishing was tough, even for the bait anglers; fish would be on the bite for half an hour or so and it would then go quiet. Even so it was a well worth while trip.

Dick reported on a 4 day trip to The Highland Lodge in the Dordrecht-Molteno district. Fishing there was also tough, due to cold fronts and accompanying high winds that hit the area, while he was there. Despite few fish being caught on this trip, the chance of landing a trophy fish is ever present, as there are some very big specimens in these waters.

Dick also mentioned that the Rhodes Fly Fishing Festival is being held from 18th to 20th March next year and suggested that SCFA members give some serious thought to attending this event. He has been a couple of times and says that it should be on every fly anglers bucket list, as it is a top notch event.

Jaco reports that bass are biting freely at present and although the fish have to date been on the small side, the big ones must be there!

Our financial boffin, Steve, says that our balance sheet is once again looking pretty healthy. Well done Steve.

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



The Umzumbe Farmers Bass competition is being held on Saturday 9th November. Registration takes place on the Friday evening, November 8th Nov. from 16h30 to 19h00 and on Saturday from 07h00 to 07h30, at the Umzumbe Farmers clubhouse at the end of Chorley Drive, Anerley. (Turn inland at the Southport traffic lights and go up Bendigo Road for about 1.5 km. Chorley Drive is on the right, opposite the Sunwave complex.)



If you do not tie your own flies, Luckys in Port Shepstone has a large stock of trout and bass flies at the moment.



They also have a good range of fly tying materials, including some very nice brush material. Mention to Hoosen or Smiler that you saw a note to this effect in the SCFA newsletter. There is no such a thing as bad publicity!!!



Dick reports that Explorer in Durban also have a fantastic range of equipment and fly tying materials. He is keen to get a bulk order from members, so if you have anything in mind, have a chat to him at the Voight's outing on Sunday 10th November.



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 Voight's outing and the proceeds be added to club funds.

### **Last Cast.**

The meeting at the Buccaneer Pub in St Mike's went off pretty well, despite the poor lighting. The bar staff were on the ball and were very helpful in putting up umbrellas to shield the braaiers from the passing showers. Steve's judgement that the rain would hold off until we had finished braaing was spot on and all in all it was a successful evening. Hope to see you all at the next meeting, which is the last one for 2019. The Ski Boat Club will probably be available at the start of 2020, but we will keep you posted.

Cheers Arthur

