



# South Coast Fly Anglers



## NEWSLETTER January 2024

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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.

As you survived Christmas, I'm sure that the New Year will be a breeze and that you will start 2024, bright eyed and bushy tailed. A very brief newsletter to start the new year, but with the usual contributions from readers, we will have at last 2 full pages of news next month and for the rest of the year, as well. We only have two local outings planned for January, so it should be easy for members to attend both. The committee is however, sure to come up with a host of outings, when they hold their first meeting in February.

### Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
7th January	Saltwater outing	Mzamba or Southbroom	Early
17th January	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
21st January	Bass outing	Dunston's or Oasis Dam	early
25th January	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
7th February	Committee meeting	Arthur's home	18h00

### Coming Events.

Our first event of 2024 is the **saltwater outing to either Mzamba or Southbroom on the 7<sup>th</sup> January.** Keep an eye open for the SMS from Steve as choosing the venue will be weather dependant.

The 17<sup>th</sup> of January sees us at Neil's home for the fly-tying workshop. We will tie Maxi's Dogs breakfast and the Improved Montana. Recipes have, as always, been sent out to members. **Note: The date given in the FotM notice is incorrect. Fly-tying is on the Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>, not the 10<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks to Neil for pointing out my mistake.

We have a **bass outing to either Dunston's dam or Oasis dam in Paddock on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January.** Steve will once again let us know the selected venue by SMS. Both venues have braai facilities, so bring the necessary.

**Monthly meeting at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 18h00 for 18h30.** Braai afterwards.

**The first committee meeting of the new year is at Arthur's home on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.** Members are again reminded to let a committee member know of anything that they would like to be discussed at this meeting.

### Past Events.

**A Final trip to Matat. from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December.** By Sakkie Mc Cay

On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> December, at sparrow, Stan, Neil, John and myself departed for the final trout outing of the year. The trip did not get off to a good start as, just before Murchison, we were stopped by the Police, as the locals were, once again restless and were staging one of their protests as far as Paddock. We about-turned and drove back towards Port Edward and just after Marina Beach, took the scenic route (if one could call it "scenic") through the tribal trust lands, finally emerging at Izingolweni. From then on it was plain sailing and apart from the pot holes between Kokstad and Matat., we arrived at our destination.

What a lovely surprise upon the arrival at the cottage. The surrounding area was spotless, all rubbish, etc had been removed and a brand spanking new, chest gas deep freeze/fridge had been installed.



**Past Events cont'd on Page 2.**

We were the first to use it and Stan the man, soon had it working. New pots, pans, cutlery etc. was also evident and the cottage was spotless. We even managed to get the shower working to a certain extent and apart from the brownish water it was all systems go.

The weather, once again, played its part. Wind rain and mist. However, we managed to fish for a few hours on all the days and in total 25 fish were caught. A lot were in the 2kg range one weighed in at 2.5 kg. The stockies were all feisty and in good condition.

Once again thanks to Neil and Stan for the cooking and braaing, whilst John and I were the washer-upperers. Needless to say, that we had plenty of wood for the Jetmaster, which was well and truly used, due to the foul weather. Overall and most memorable trip to end of the year, apart from two incidents, which the Fines Master, will obviously note. We have practised fishing "barbless," but never fishing "hookless." Well brother John had 4 almighty tugs one after another, but never managed to hook one. On examining his fly, it was noted that never mind no barb he also had no hook. What a bummer!!!! To make up for his mistake and to stop me chirping and promising not to spill the beans, he made me a cup of coffee and put it at my feet on the veranda, which was a foolish thing to do, because you can guess the outcome. Cup kicked over, coffee all round and John mopping up. "I rest my case M'Lord."  
See you in 2024.

### Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



#### **Fisherman have won a landmark legal battle against the government and the Environment Agency in the UK, for failing to protect and restore a river ecosystem.**

Costa Beck, near Pickering in North Yorkshire, once had a reputation as the best fly-fishing spot in the county. However, its decline prompted local anglers to take legal action after years of campaigning.

The action was brought by Fish Legal and Pickering Fishery Association, who argued that the government had failed in their mandatory legal duties, including protecting the Upper Costa Beck from discharges of sewerage.

The association's Martin Smith said: "For 20 years we have been fighting this, it should have been stopped, but the law hasn't been applied."

"The numbers of fish in here now are miniscule compared to what they were," he added.

He said the reason for population decline included a failure to properly manage the amount of silt in the water.

*(If only we, in South Africa, could achieve this. Ed)*

### Last Cast.

My mind is not yet geared up to writing a fitting end to a newsletter, so I will just wish all readers a very Happy New Year and may 2024 be a year of good health and many happy hours spent flexing that casting arm, with satisfying results.

A reminder that your wishes will only come true, if you put in the hard yard to make this happen.

Cheers Arthur.

