



# South Coast Fly Anglers



## NEWSLETTER May 2023

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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 promised in last month's newsletter, we have a bumper crop of events lined up for the next couple of months in addition to a couple of articles on recent outings that have been undertaken by members.

Cheers Arthur.

### Events Calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
10th May	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
13th May	Bass outing	Voigt's dam. Paddock	07h00
25th May	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
28th May	Saltwater outing	M'zamba Estuary	07h00
7th June	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
11th June	Scalie outing	Umkomaas	TBA
14th June	Film festival	Durban	16h00
25th June	Saltwater outing	TO Strand	07h00
27th June	Committee meeting	Neil's home	18h00
29th June	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30

### Coming Events.

On **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**, we have the **fly-tying workshop at Neil's home**, where we will be tying the Alphlexo Crab and the Parachute Adams. It is the first time that we will try the former, so come along. If you do not have the special materials for this crab, no worries. Beg, borrow or steal what you need from one of those present.

The Adams does not require any special material, but is a little tricky to get a neat presentation. Come along and get expert guidance from Neil. Recipes have been sent to members.

We have a **bass outing to Voigt's dam in Paddock on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**. **Note: Saturday not Sunday.** Braai facilities are available, so bring the necessary.

**Normal monthly meeting at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>**. Braai after the meeting as always.

It is many years since we last had an outing to the **M'zamba estuary at the Wild Coast Inn**, but you have your chance on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. Come to the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> to get instructions as to how to get into the Casino.

Kick boats are not essential, but will be a huge advantage. Final arrangements will be confirmed at the monthly meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Not sure if we will be able to braai, but you will be notified by SMS.

**Fly-tying again at Neil's home on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June**. We will be tying the Irish Blonde and the Bal Byter ant pattern. This is again a first for us, so be there. As usual, recipes will be sent out to members in due course.

**To be noted: Pieter is organising a trip to Durban on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June to view an International Trout Fishing Film Festival.** Cost is R360 plus fuel costs. The group will leave 'Tweni at 16h00.

Contact Pieter (083 543 7005) for details.

There is a **scalie outing to Umkomaas on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**. Details at the meeting on 25 May and per SMS from Steve.



Cont'd on Page 2.

**Arthur is co-ordinating a trip to Wattled Crane from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July.** Contact him (078 312 0417 or [caryaj@xsinet.co.za](mailto:caryaj@xsinet.co.za)) to book your spot.

Only 6 places are available for the **saltwater outing to St Lucia from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August**, (and some of these have already been filled,) so contact Neil (083 265 6608) immediately, if you intend going.

### Past Events.

**Trout trip to Wattled Crane. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.** By Stephen Brand.

Neil, Sakkie, Stan, Steve, Arthur and Mitch left around 6 am and headed up to the lake. We arrived at 9h30, quickly unpacked and 3 were on the water after a quick bite to eat. Those that fished caught 11 fish in the 34 km/h gusting south easter.

Saturday we were up at 6 am and had to boil the kettle on the gas, as we had load shedding which lasted till 7 am. We initially had a northly wind, which gradually switched to the south. Despite the variation in the conditions, we caught a total of 27 fish. (*Steve found the honey hole up near the wattle trees on the north east bank and got 9 in about an hour and a half. Ed*)

Sunday same again, with load shedding till 7am, but we were all on the water when the sun got up. The lake was like a sheet of glass with nary a ripple, even so there were a couple of rises and after 9 am a breeze came up, which gradually increased in strength. After lunch it turned and came from the south east. A total of 18 fish were caught for the day.

On the Monday morning, a few guys went out; the lake was again like a mirror, until and the wind picked up and they came off the water to pack up. Only 4 fish were caught.

Thanks to Neil and Arthur for organising the grub and the menu, (*and thanks to Steve who has really become the Braai Master par excellence. Ed.*)

Total 60 fish for the week end.

Mitch earned a place in the record books, as he is the first entry in the 2023/24 Master of Arms Diary; he once again forgot to bring the cutlery holder. Some folks never learn.

### **Monthly Meeting. Thursday 27th April 2023. Umtentweni Tennis Club.**

Arthur chaired the meeting in the absence of John.

Sean and Stacey are congratulated on their engagement. We wish you all the best as you prepare for the big day.

**Present:** 11 members. **Apologies:** Dick, John, Warren, Mitch, Mike K, Kevin, Matt. **Visitors:** Stacey.

**Flies of the Month: Judged by Steve.** Steve had a relatively easy job of judging, with only 4 freshwater flies and 3 saltwater flies to work with. A really poor turnout, when compared to the 20 or so entries that we have had on some occasions. Come on chaps, we surely can do better than that. Your entry does not have to be perfect, in order for you to enter. Tom and Murray both say, "The more bushy the fly, the more effective it will be!"

**Freshwater: DDD:** Neil, Sean, Arthur John.

**Saltwater: Sal-Mul-Mac:** Sean. Neil Arthur.

**Finances:** Steve reported that finances are once again looking healthy, after the club had some recent heavy expenses in the form of the prize giving supper sponsorship and the purchase of caps, hats and badges. There are still a number of these available, so contact Steve if you want a cap, hat or badge.

### **General.**

Members were once again reminded that a new Calendar of Events would be drawn up at the committee meeting, to be held at Pieter's home on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. A list of preferred venues for outings should be given to a committee member for consideration.

Dick was thanked for the additional article on the Rhodes Trout Festival that was circulated to members.



As Neil missed the AGM, (he was gracious enough to submit his apologies,) the Master at Arms had been denied a chat with the Honourable Member. This matter was rectified and Neil sort of admitted to some of the blapses that he had committed last year. Steve gratefully accepted the subsequent financial contribution.

Sakkie, Stan, Neil, Steve and Arthur added their respective tuppence worth to a discussion on the recent trip to Wattled Crane. (See above article by Steve.)

Sean reported that the road up to Mountain Lake is currently being repaired. He would let us know when this work had been completed. Hopefully the municipality staff would then service the cottage and we would again be able to fish these waters.

Sean also reported that he and Jaco would be fishing the Underberg and Kokstad Festivals respectively, over the week end of 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April (See articles below.)

**Rivers in May. Underberg Trout Festival. Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May.** By Sean Tharratt.

On Friday afternoon we all met at the Underberg Country Club for the briefing and snacks and to pick our river beats.

On the Saturday morning, we set off at 6:30 am to our first beat, which was upper Tretower: about 5km down the Drak Gardens road. Conditions were good. The rivers were low and clean and it was a nice sunny day. Some river sections were deeper than others, so there was a nice variety all over. Tretower had a lot of small fish, but I did manage a few in the upper 20cm range.

On the Saturday afternoon, we fished the lower Mkomazana River, on a private farm, where they didn't know if there was fish. We didn't catch anything there, but a lady angler caught a 33cm brown there the next day.

On Sunday morning, we fished upper Bergview which is in Bushmans Nek area. The Ngwangwane River is very nice as well and we found a big pool there and also got a few nice fish, casting streamers into the pool.

On Sunday afternoon we fished The Grange, which is the lower Umzimkulu, which is also a nice section with long pools, and rapids in between, in which you could fish dry flies, streamers or nymphing techniques. I landed 51 fish and had a great time making new friends and learning new areas.

On the Monday morning, I fished Duane's spot before I left and got 14 fish. Biggest of 35cm, but the fish in this section are very strong and gave a good fight.

**Kokstad Fly-fishing Festival. 28<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> April.** By Jaco Strauss.

The Kokstad Fly-fishing Festival took place from the 28th to the 30th of April. The briefing was on the Friday evening, where registration took place, as well as drawing of dams.

Eighteen teams took part, four anglers in a team which resulted in seventy-two anglers fishing in the Festival, fishing 20 dams. After the draw, each team had 4 dams allocated to fish over the 2 days.

The 1st session took place on Saturday morning from 06h00 to noon. We then had 30min to move to the next dam and fish that from 12h30 to 6pm. After fishing we met back at the club to hand in score cards and have supper.

On Sunday we again had two sessions on two different dams. Each day we were given lunch packs which consisted of sandwiches, biscuits, a boiled egg, cold drinks and sweets. My wife and I fished with another husband and wife couple, as a team.

On Saturday morning we fished the Camballen Dam, where I caught a nice 56.5 cm cockfish, as well as a 46 cm and a 47 cm rainbow; my wife didn't get anything, but our team members got a few fish.

After a hectic drive of 35km on a dirt road and down a 4x4 trail with our car, we made it close to the Hilltop dam; the road was too bad to go further. We had to carry all our things and kick boats over a rocky field and up a hill to get to the water. By the time we were ready to fish, we were exhausted! We fished the dam, which was about 70% weeded over, leaving only a small area to fish. We caught nothing. Getting out was a mighty wheel spinning act up the hill again, back to town and to the club to hand in our score cards and have supper.



On Sunday morning we had another hectic drive through mist and got ourselves a bit lost, before we fished the Hermon dam. Fishing was slow: my wife and I each got one rainbow, measuring 45 cm and 59 cm respectively. We were quite happy, although we expected to catch more, as we tried hard.

Then to the next dam. When we eventually made it close to the dam, we found that there was no access road: the last section consisted of big boulders etc... even with a 4x4 it would have been impossible: we made a decision as team, to call it a day.

We got back to our accommodation, relaxed a bit and got ready to return to the club for the closing. After we gave in our score cards, we dished up supper, which was "potjie-kos" and chicken curry.

The winners and runners-up were announced; Chantal the other lady in our team got 1st prize for her fish and my wife got a second prize. This was awesome as they both tried so hard and it all paid off, well done ladies!!! Photos of fish over 50 cm, were sent in daily on a WhatsApp group. These fish would qualify for a place. Bear in mind then that 24 fish, measuring over 60 cm were caught and the winning fish was a 69cm rainbow hen!!! It was a great weekend, lots of hard work but fun!!!!

*(Jaco, your experiences with getting lost and drawing dams that have difficult or impossible access roads, are weed infested or plain mud-holes, are about par for the course for this Festival. A few of our members have had similar experiences in the past. A word in the ear of the organisers may be in order here. Ed)*

### **Saltwater outing to 'Tweni Granny Pool. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.** By Arthur Cary.

Neil and Warren were already tackled up, when Arthur arrived at the 'Tweni parking area, just after 06h00. True to his promise at the monthly meeting, Arthur had brought along 6 packets of out-of-date sardines, with which he proceeded to chum Grannie's pool. As Warren said, "If we all catch fish, you will not be fined, but if we don't ...."

Steve, Mitch, David Rob and Ken joined in the fray. (Marion was ready to get the gaff from the Prado, if it was required.) First Neil and then Ken opted to fish off the rocks, while the rest of us spread along the bay and the beach to the north. Surprisingly, the gusting breeze from the south west, did not hamper the right-hand-casters too much; Ken only pinned himself a couple of times.

Before moving onto the beach, he got a really nice Mooney, on a Charlie/Clouser combine, tied by David, but then promptly lost that fly to a "rock-fish." Despite the chumming efforts and the near perfect condition in the bay, there were no more fish to be had. Mitch had taken a long walk northwards, looking for some decent water, but the shore break was just as bad there, as it was in the south. Both Steve and Ken persisted, long after the rest of us had given up and Arthur realised that a heavy fine was unavoidable.

After a good natter and a couple of cups of coffee, we all headed homewards, un-consolated by the fact that even the lone bait fisherman, did not get a bite, despite the Christmas-tree trace and small baits that he had been using.

### **Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**



Neil was lucky enough to spend few days with family in Dubai last month. During his time there, he also managed to get out on a boat and fish for Queenfish. The operation is run by a South African and although the fly-fishing tackle that was supplied was not of the best, he managed to get a couple of very nice fish. He says that the skipper was really good at manoeuvring the boat into the right position.

He also says that what he initially found extremely difficult was not to strike when he had a take from his quarry. One must allow the fish to take the fly, (only Clousers are used) take up the slack, wait for it to turn only then strike. Any other method simply pulls the fly out of the mouth of the fish. Not an easy trick to learn, especially when you can see your quarry approach and then take the fly.

**Last Cast.** Cheers for now. See you at the meetings and on the water. Arthur.

