



## NEWSLETTER December 2020

**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 (076 312 0417) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

### Preparing to cast.

Well we have managed to get to the end of a very difficult year, one which, I am sure, we will remember for all the wrong reasons.

November was, however, a good month for the Catch Record Book and Sean will have his work cut out to total the number of fish caught, that is, if these are actually entered by the successful anglers.

This month we have the Events Calendar, starting in January 2021. Take this opportunity to get your ducks into a row for the next two months. Grateful thanks to the contributors for the articles on our various outings.

Cheers Arthur.

### Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2021	Committee meeting	Arthur's home	18h00
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Scalie outing	Umzimkulu	08h00
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Flytying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Saltwater outing	Rocky Bay	05h30
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monthly meeting	Probably the Tweni Tennis Club	18h for 18h30
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Grub & travel meeting	TBA	18h00
6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Scalie outing	Nyala Pans	TBA
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Flytying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Saltwater outing	Trafalgar	06h00

### Coming Events.

As usual, SCFA do not have any official outings planned for December. The scalie outing on the 10th depends on the clarity of the Umzimkulu. Piet will make the final decision closer to the time. Keep and ear open for an SMS from Steve or an e-mail from me.

### Fly of the Month.

Once again we do not have a Fly of the Month for December. The flies for the January meeting, are the Gold Bead Bug and a freestyle Crazy Charlie. Recipes and photos for these will be sent out before the January newsletter goes out, which will be shortly after the Committee meeting on the 6th.

### Past Events.

#### Getting Thrashed by kingies in the Umzimkulu. First week of November.

In the first week of the month, word was circulated through the SCFA SMS group, that there was frantic action in the Umzimkulu river, the mouth of which was closed, due to little rainfall in the inland catchment areas.

Liam got himself onto a boat and although he was beaten up on a number of occasions, managed to land a few Giant Kingfish, which measured over 60 cm fork length.

On Saturday 7th, a group, including Duane, Ian, Warren Connor, Rob, Neil, Liam and Sean (possibly others as well,) loaded up their heavier rods with an assortment of Clousers, Deceivers and odd streamer patterns and descended on the South Bank. (The north bank parking area was flooded by the rising water.)

Some really hectic action followed, as many of the chaps hooked and lost fish, (mainly Greenspot Kingfish.) A number were landed and these also measured over 60 cm fork length.



The most successful method of hooking a fish was to wait for a boil and immediately put the fly into that area, strike hard as the fly was eaten and then pray that the tippet would hold and that there was sufficient backing to subdue the submarine on the end of the line.

Not all anglers landed a fish, but it can truthfully be said that a really great time was had by both those who did and those who did not.

The mouth was opened on the Sunday and the Glory Week of the 'Kulu was over. One thing that it does show however, is that this river has great potential and that we should keep a close eye on it and fish it whenever it looks promising.

*(My apologies to any member who was part of the action, but who is not mentioned in dispatches. Ed)*

**Dunston's Dam. Sunday 8th November.** By Rob Nicholas.

A good turn-out on Sunday with possibly Ian and Sean the first on the water - SMS with picture at +- 04h45. The rest of the crew, John, Steve, Warren, Connor, Mitch and Rob and a welcome bask to Ken, David and Marion.

Many bass were caught by all, ranging from tiddlers to +- 10 inches and numbers to over 30 per angler in some cases.

The most successful fly was used by Ken and David, a Red Setter, but many varied flies were used successfully.

The dam is fairly shallow, with much weed. Access to the dam is easy, but Ian seemed to have some difficulty getting his vehicle and trailer out - thanks to Steve for assistance.

We packed up early as it was getting really hot and someone forgot to bring the charcoal - so no braai. A good day on the water. *( The "no show of charcoal" has been duly noted by the Master at Arms and the appropriate action will be taken in due course. Ed.)*

**Salt outing to Impenjati. Sunday 22nd November.** By Arthur Cary.

Sunday morning saw a hoard of SCFA members invade Impenjati, certainly the biggest crowd for many, many years. This shows that members are hungry for some fish action and bodes well for 2021.

Fishing was tough, with a strong south westerly making it difficult for the south paws, (lefties, Mitch and Dick certainly had a distinct advantage in the casting department.) To add to our discomfort, the waves were running in from the north east. This meant that if the cast was aimed at 90 degrees to the beach, anglers were in danger of being pinned by their own fly (and most of us were!!!)

When anglers tried to take advantage of the wind, and cast to the NE, they landed up being entangled by the line, which washed up around their feet. Many an unkind word was directed at the weather-man for getting the forecast correct for once!

Despite the unfavourable weather and the dirty water in the estuary, a number of wave garrick and thorn fish were caught; wavies in the surf and the pricklies in the estuary.

Successful flies included, Surf Puffs, Orange Ruffies, Crazy Charlies, small Clousers and Crab patterns in white, chartreuse, orange, grey and yellow

After the charcoal debacle at Dunstone's, dozens of packets of charcoal and umpteen grids were produced for the braai, which turned out to be a very social gathering, with appropriate social distancing, of course.

**Tally for the morning: Thorn Fish:** Steve (2), Warren (1), Ian (1), Renier (1) (Renier is a visitor and a potential member, if Liam can twist his arm, which is showing distinct signs of the pressure!!)

**Wave Garrick:** Warren (4), John (3), Duane (2), Pieter (2), Liam (1).

*(Readers are to please note that Warren, John, Steve, Duane and Pieter out fished our Protea angler, Liam. who has booked a private lesson from each of these maestros. Ed.)*

Paula, Kevin, Mitch, Dick, Mike and Arthur who did not even prick a fish have also booked their places on the education list.

Visiting photographer, Dave, said that the fish were either too big or too small for him to focus correctly, hence no photographs of these.!!

**Christmas outing to Steve's dam. Sunday 29th November.** By Stephen Brand.

Ian (11) and Sean (18) arrived first followed by Mike (10), Kevin (3), Steve (1), John (7), Arthur (6), Rob (0), Conner (1), Warren (0), Ken (2), Dave (2), Stan and Mitch (0), Sakkie (0), Dick (0) 61 in total.



Flies used: Dave's demon, Orange green tinsel, Red Setter, Hamill's Killer, Minky, Brown Woolly Bugger, Yellow Popper, Flipper, Black Woolly Bugger, Olive Paparoch, Dullstroom Orange.

Most came off the water around 10am and the wives joined us: June, Francis, Smokey, Marion, Kate and Sean's Tracey. We all sat around the braai, feasted and were merry.

Liam and Duane had reasons for not coming even though they were offered lifts. Pat forgot. Thanks to June and Belinda for the treats.

*( A huge "Thank You" goes to Steve for allowing us to fish the dam, for transporting tables and braai and for preparing the dam so well. Verges had been cut and a lot of the weed had been pulled out. Thanks too to Olga and Belinda for their effort in making this outing a huge success. Ed)*

### **Monthly meeting at the Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 26th November.**

**Present:** 14 members. It was great to see Pat and Dick, who have missed many meetings since lockdown. Welcome as well to young visitor, Tiffany.

**Apologies:** Ken, David, Sakkie and Stan. Duane was working.

**Flies of the Month.** Judged by Jaco.

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

**Saltwater: Clouser:** Neil, Neil, Sean, John, Sean, Ian, Arthur, Sean, Ian.

**Finances:** Steve reported that the club finances are extremely healthy. *(Not good enough yet for that promised trip to the Azores by the committee, but getting there. Ed)*

### **General:**

In reply to a question from John, it seemed as though those present were happy with the facilities at the 'Tweni Tennis Club. The room is spacious, well lit, quiet, has a very adequate and well lit braai area and the drinks are affordable.

A disadvantage is that it is a fair distance to travel for those members who live in the Deep South, however a lift club could partially solve this problem. If no objections are raised, this venue will be used for future meetings. If any member has serious objections to this, please contact a committee member.

Members are asked to don their thinking caps and come up with a list of flies for next year. We also need some new venues for outings in 2021. Please submit your lists to a committee member before January 6th when the committee meets again.

A number of SCFA members paid their R600.00 subs for membership of the Matatiele Angling Club in June, but have not yet received their membership cards. Sean, who goes to Matat. regularly on business, was asked to follow up.

Sean reported that he has asked Quentin of the Matat Angling Club to let him know when they will be stocking Mountain Lake with brown trout. As reported last month SCFA, will donate R2000.00 towards this project.

Dick reported that the Rhodes Trout Fishing Festival is being held from 16th to 21st March 2021. Members who are interested in joining this group, should contact him on 082 453 8618.

Neil gave a short report on his recent fishing trip to the Wavcrest area. He was the only angler of a group who took a fly rod, but had no success as sea conditions were totally against this form of fishing. Rough terrain and even rougher seas prevented him getting close enough to the water to cast a fly.

The Master at Arms produced his archives and Ian was fined for acts and non-acts committed in 2017. Ian did not attend the 2018 AGM and did not renew his membership that year.

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



The list of members for 2020/2021 has been sent out. As you will see, we have unfortunately lost a couple of members who have not renewed their membership, which was due in March.

### **Last Cast.**

Just enough space for me to wish members and all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Blessed and Holy New Year. To those going away over the Festive Season "Safe travels" and to the wise ones remaining at home "Stay safe."

Cheers Arthur.

