



## South Coast Fly Anglers



# NEWSLETTER May 2022

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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.

Well it certainly has been a tough month for anglers in general and fly anglers in particular. The well publicised floods in KZN, caused by torrential rain over 5 solid days, put paid to any chances of the proposed Trafalgar outing yielding anything, so it was postponed. Local dams and rivers have also been adversely affected and will remain so, for a while to come. Time to get out the vice, materials and recipe books and stock up the fly box. If you are not into tying at the moment we have a full calendar of events which we hope will produce a load of fun, even if we don't catch a bucket full of fish.

### Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Fresh water outing	Vogit's dam	07h00
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Salt water outing	Umzimkulu River Estuary	07h00
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Grub 'n travel meeting	TBA	18h00
10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	Early
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15 for 18h30
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Salt water outing	Trafalgar	07h00
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
4 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Grub 'n travel meeting	TBA	18h00
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Committee meeting	Pieter's home	18h00
9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Estuary outing	The Pont	TBD

### Coming Events.

Another bass outing has been planned to Voigt's dam in Paddock for **Sunday 15th May**. Bring your own requirements for a braai afterwards.

The **fly-tying workshop will be held at Neil's home, on Wednesday 18th May at 18h15 for 18h30**. We will tie the saltwater Slinky Bait Fish and the freshwater Flash Back Nymph. Both are easy to tie and both use readily available materials. Be there and get some hints on how to improve your tying skills and so improve your catch rate. Recipes have been sent out to members.

The **monthly meeting is again at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 26th May**. We may well hold the grub 'n travel meeting for the upcoming Wattled Crane trip at the same time, so make sure that you are there to give your input.

Hopefully the **Umzimkulu River mouth** will be fishable when we plan to give it a go on **Sunday 29th May**.

We have a weekend outing to **The Pont on the 9th and 10th of July**. (This should ensure that the coast gets a good shower of winter rain, as it always rains when we camp at The Pont.) As usual we will have the grub 'n travel meeting to arrange tents, a menu and travel arrangements for the Saturday and Sunday. Neil has a few places available at his time share in St Lucia. He has booked from **Monday Aug 22nd to Friday Aug 26th**. These are on a first come basis, so if you want to be included, contact him immediately. ( 083 265 6608)



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Past Events.

Rhodes Fly Fishing Festival. Wednesday 16th to Monday 21st March. By Dick Plaistowe.

The annual Rhodes Fly Fishing Festival, 2022, was held from 16th to 21st March and was, yet again, an outstanding success; this year, arguably, the best ever. I might mention that the dates for the 2023 Festival viz. 16th to 21st March, and it's not too early to pay a deposit to secure an entry, assuming that some of this year's entrants don't make it next year. (*Contact Dick 092 453 8618 for details. Ed.*)

The weather was generally considerate, some rain earlier in the week, which discoloured the waters, but did not prevent fishing and which cleared up pretty quickly. Not too hot nor too cold for comfortable fishing; water levels a little on the high side after all the rain to have hit the Eastern Cape, and elsewhere for that matter, as we well know from the reports of floods in Matats and Kokstad. Fish nonetheless rose to dry flies, for those who resisted the wet-fly urge, in other words, the so-called gentlemen and traditionalists of our sport and finally the company was, as always, exceptional and well behaved.

For the record, some 2362 trout were caught and released, an average of 15.3 fish per return per day, with roughly 20% below 100 mm, 40% 100-150 mm, 20% 150-250 mm, and the balance above 250 mm with 6 fish larger than 450 mm.

Based on the above average return, I only fished for 2 days and Neil 3 days based on our catches of 33 and 45 fish respectively. In fact we both fished for 6 days as we arrived two days early to get some fishing before the crowds arrived, so I guess the figures suggest that there is another problem, or explanation which I won't dwell on. Incidentally, this year was hands down the most fish I've ever caught in Rhodes, so Neil and I were happy.

As always, I cannot speak highly enough about the Festival, and I'm definitely going to make an early booking to secure next year- not surprisingly, as its always the first entry into next years diary.

Freshwater outing to Voigt's Dam in Paddock. Sunday 24th April. By Arthur Cary.

After, what seemed to be an age without wetting a line, 11 of the faithful turned out to this bass outing, which opened with a stunning sunrise and promises of continued glorious weather. An early slight breeze picked up as the morning wore on and caused the straggler anglers a few aches in the calf muscles, as they kicked back to the waiting braai fire.

To put it mildly, fishing was tough, as only 8 small bass were landed. Looking through my excuse list for the lack of success, I will this time pick "Extremely discoloured water, due to the very heavy recent rains." I also think that the Paddock Bass Compo, held a month ago, depleted the dam of hundreds of the small ones, which will actually turn out to be a blessing, as those that are left will develop into some decent sized fish.

It cannot be said that the fish were particularly fussy regarding fly pattern or colour, as everyone tried almost every fly in their respective boxes, with very limited success. The general opinion was that a fish could just not see anything that did not actually hit him in the face. There were 5 other anglers fishing from kick boats, using bass lures and a couple of them also blanked. The most successful of them was actually using a fly rod.

As always, we ended with a very sociable braai, thanks to Steve for again doing the honours and to Dick, who brought his very fancy braai.

Tally.

Neil, 1, on a Midnight Express, Arthur, 2, on a Speed Cop and a Red Setter, David, 2, on a Red Setter and Ken, 3 in the space of 10 minutes on a Mrs Simpson. John had a couple of on-offs, using a Flipper and Dave's Demon. Steve, Mitch, Rob, Dick, Stan and Sakkie unfortunately did not bother the Catch Record Book.

Monthly meeting. Thursday 24th February. Umtentweni Tennis Club.

Present: 13 members. Apologies: Bill, Liam, Mike, Kevin, Ian and Conner.

Flies of the Month: Judged by Steve.

Freshwater: **Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear:** Neil, Neil Sean, Pieter, Arthur John, Dick.

Saltwater: **Salty Bugger:** Sean, Neil, John, Dick, Arthur.



**Coming Events:**

The committee meeting would be held at Pieter's home on Wednesday 4th May. (It was actually held at Neil's home because of load shedding.)

As neither Neil nor Dick would be available on the 11th, fly tying at Neil's home would be moved to the 18th May. (See Events calendar)

Due to the uncertainty of scheduled venues further outings will be decided at the committee meeting.

**General.**

Dick was thanked for his article in the South Coast Herald. Arthur and Dick explained the rationale behind these articles, which would be submitted monthly.

Pieter and Sean reported on a quick visit up to Bushman's Nek on Wednesday 27th April. They both caught 15 Rainbow trout, the biggest of which measured 42 cm. It was generally agreed that the 240 km trip was too far for a one day trip. Piet said that there were cottages and camping available. Rod fees are R50.00 per day.

Jaco and Sean recently fished the Loteni Trials, where fishing was tough, but they both learned a lot regarding fishing under different conditions.

Steve reported that finances are looking very healthy. Subs for 2022/23 from two members are outstanding.

He also reported that the spillway of his dam had been damaged in the recent heavy rains and would have to be rebuilt. The dam is also very dirty at the moment and will take some considerable time to clear.

The meeting ended with the normal very sociable braai.

**Committee Meeting held at Neil's home on Wednesday 4th May.**

Apart from solving all the water and electricity shortages of the South Coast, the committee managed to draw up a healthy Calendar of Events for the coming months. All that is now required from members is for these to be well attended, so come along and enjoy.

**Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.**

Nothing in this section for this month.

**Last Cast.**

The newsletter is a shade on the late side this month, as it was held back to get the results of decisions taken at the committee meeting which was held on the 4th of May. (Not a major disaster, as there has not been anything on the go.) Note that fly tying at Neil's home has been moved to the 18th May. The scheduled scaly outing to the Umzimkulu has been cancelled due to the present state of the river. Too full, too dangerous and too dirty. Hopefully the mouth will be ok for the outing on the 29th. I trust that many of you will be there. Cheers Arthur.

