



South Coast Fly Anglers

NEWSLETTER February 2024

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistowe (082 453 8618)
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Preparing to cast.

Let me apologise profusely for the late edition of this February newsletter. It was decided to tide the production over until the committee meeting was held. This was so that we could publish an up-to-date Events Calendar and also to produce the list of Flies of the Month for 2024. The committee meeting should have been held on the first Wednesday of the month, but was delayed, as various members had gone fish-about. The meeting was finally held on Thursday 8th and I hope that the published results are worth the wait. (members will receive the list of FotM by separate post.)

This month, due to the condition of the sea, brought about by heavy rains in January, has resulted in only two reports of outings to local bass dams. Not a huge representation of club members at either event and although a good number of fish were caught, they were all of a tiny, small or mediocre size. Oh well, I suppose in our part of the world, "A fish is a fish, is a fish," but it would be good to get one that pulled a bit of string. Only one report in the "Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories" section and sorry to say, but that is one of doom and gloom.

Arthur.

Events Calendar.

14th February	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
18th February	Saltwater outing	Southbroom	Early
25th February	Saltwater outing	Mzamba Estuary	05h30
29th February	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h15 for 18h30
2nd March	Prize giving	Steve's home	18h00
3th March	Paddock Bass Compo	Paddock	Early
13th March	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	!8h15
17th March	Saltwater outing	Umtentweni Grannies Pool	06h00
28th March	Annual general meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
3rd April	Committee meeting	John's home	18h00
10th April	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	1hh15
10th April	Grub 'n travel Meeting	Neil's home	After fly trying
12th to 14th April	Trout trip	Silver Streams	TBD

Calendar of Coming Events.

We have a **fly-tying workshop at Neil's home on the 14th February.** We will tie the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear and the Organza Shrimp. Recipes will be sent to members in the next couple of days.

Sunday the 18th February, will see us at Southbroom for a salt-water outing, while we will fish the **Mzamba Estuary the following Sunday i.e. 25th February**

The monthly meeting is at the 'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29th February. Braai as usual.

Prize giving is at Steve's home on Saturday 2nd March at 18h00. Be there for this never to be missed event.

The Annual Paddock Bass Compo is also being that same week end so if you can wake up early after the prize giving you can fish this event on the Sunday.

We again have the normal **fly-tying workshop at Neil's home on Wednesday 13th March.**



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Past Events.

Bass outing to Dunstone's Dam. Murchison. Sunday 15th January. By Arthur Cary.

Due to the recent heavy rain and the resultant condition of the sea, the proposed salt water outing, originally scheduled for the January 8th, was postponed to the 15th and when conditions had not improved, was altered to a bass outing to Murchison, for that date.

Steve had a number of firsts for the day. He was first on the scene at Dunstone's dam, first on the water and first to catch a fish. He used a popper to good effect and managed to net a total of 10 fish. Ken, as usual relied on a Red Setter and a Surf Puff, to get his total up to "about 40," while John also lost count when he had landed 20 something and probably ended up with 30 or so, mainly on a Jacaranda Fly.

Warren is a regular attendee at club events, but it was good to see Conner, who has not been to an outing for quite a while. They accounted for a total of nearly 30 fish between them, also using Jacaranda flies of different colours.

In a vain attempt to "catch the bigger ones," Stan and Arthur used larger Wolly Buggers and Jacarandas. Stan opted to fish from the dam wall, where there was a lot of surface activity, while Arthur joined the others on the water. The fish were not really interested in the larger flies and even Arthur's offering of a small fish, kept captive as an unreleased "live bait," could not tempt a big fish. The combined total of Stan and Arthur did not even reach double figures.

The fact that there are big fish in this dam was proven, when we witnessed a huge chase, 5 metres from the side, whilst having our lunch. The frantic evasive efforts of the intended victim could clearly be seen, as well as the thrashing of the pursuer, who was hell bent on having a meal. Where was this monster hiding while we were fishing? We later saw further activity in the same vicinity, so Mr Hungry was clearly still on the prowl.

Despite the lack of a good-sized fish, (Warren's one of 400 grams was probably top of the list,) all anglers had a really relaxed morning, which finished off with a good natter around Steve's braai. Whilst we did not solve any of the world's problems, we certainly gave them good airing. It was unanimously agreed that if we keep trying, we will eventually get a monster from this dam.

Neil's Yellow fish outing to Sterkfontein Dam.

Neil had a tough week's fishing at Sterkfontein Dam, where he caught 8 yellows a barbel and a bass. The wind blew like it can at Sterkies, making tough conditions even tougher.

He says that the shore line around many of the bays that we have fished in the past have changed dramatically and there are areas where one used to be able to get right down to the waters edge, but now one is confronted by a drop of up to a metre. Extreme wave action has caused the collapse of the shoreline.

Bass outing to Voigt's Dam in Paddock. Sunday 21st January. By John New.

Because the sea has been so dirty, we had to again go for a fresh water outing this Sunday. Some club members went up to Deon Voigt's, but the water was also not that clean. Only about 23 fish were caught, none of them were big guys, but at least we got out of the house. We did not have our usual braai after fishing, because not that many fish were hooked.

Flies that worked were Surf Puff, Crazy Charlie and Jacaranda, I am not sure what fly Steve used, but I think the murky water put the fish off.

Monthly Meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday, 25th January.

Members present: 12, including new member David Moldenhauer Welcome, Dave. As we always say, "May your association with South Coast Fly Anglers be long and mutually beneficial."

Apologies: Mike S. and Toi, who are still on holiday in Oz, Neil, Liam, (still having a tough life in the Seychelles!!) Sakkie, Matt, Jaco, David S., Conner, Mike K., Kevin and not to forget Pat in the Cape (who incidentally sends regards and sends greetings to all.)

Flies of the Month: Judged by new member Dave.

Fresh water: Improved Montana: Mitch, Dick, Arthur, Sean, John.

Salt water: Maxi's Dog's Breakfast: Arthur, Sean, Dick, John, Steve.

General:

Arthur again reminded members, that Matt Kennedy, of the Mission Magazine is still looking for photos of fish caught in our waters. These can either be sent directly to Matt at > matt@themissionflymag.com < or send them to Arthur and he will forward them on.



Dick said the Sean Dickson and Chris Shuttleworth may be at the February monthly meeting to again give a fly-tying demonstration. This is yet to be confirmed, but members will be notified by SMS and by e-mail.

Sean said that he has been looking at the possibility of fishing the Durban Harbour, where the water is relatively un-muddied. He is also looking into fishing a section of the Mooi River, owned by a farmer friend of his. Watch this space for developments!!!!

Dave Moldenhauer gave a short résumé of his angling experiences. He lived in the Haenetsburg district for a number of years, has yet to catch a double figure trout and his next salt water fish will be his first, as will be his next yellow fish. *(Dave, don't worry, many of us are not far ahead of you. Ed.)* He does not yet tie his own flies, **but we will soon change that.**

Piet gave Steve the raffle sheets and these were distributed to those members who were present. If you have not received yours, please contact Steve ASAP. Prizes will, as usual, be the flies that were tied in 2023. The draw will take place at Prize Giving in March.

Steve reported that club finances are virtually on a par with last year. This is despite the extra expenses of sponsoring the Matatiele Club to the tune of R2000.00 for brown trout and another few grand spent on accommodation, when members camped at Silver Streams in November. *(Well done, Steve. SCFA would certainly be in the poor house if it were not for your firm hand on the purse strings. Ed)*

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



Recent reports have indicated that the Vaal River is rapidly heading towards a complete state of disaster. *(Many a despondent says that it reached that point many years ago. Ed)*

The river is gradually being choked by weed, (Water lettuce and hyacinth) which in some areas, prevents access to the water and even in the areas that are not as badly affected, has made fishing and boating of any description very difficult.

Little or nothing is been done by the authorities to counteract the problem and has reached the point where, it is wondered if the problem can ever be overcome. The responsible authorities will certainly not lift a finger, let alone tackle the problem.

This weed is of course, gradually spreading downstream; and may have already reached the Gariep Dam and van der Kloof Dams, which will not stop the spread down the Great Fish River and Orange River respectively.

Adopting a cynical approach, makes one wonder of our great, great grand children will be able to take a "green hike" from Standerton to the mouth of the Orange River. They will be able to hike bare foot on the weed in the middle of the so-called "river." Water will of course, be a problem, but can be solved by the hikers operating water carrying drones.

Jet skiers, boat-owners and anglers who use these waters, can assist in the prevention of further spread of the weed, by ensuring that any equipment that comes into contact with the water, is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, before being taken from that area. Rather do the cleaning in an already affected area, than do it in an unaffected area, (at home) and thereby possibly contaminate a previously clean area. Will this happen; probably not to the extent that is required, but here's hoping.

Last Cast.

I'm obviously working towards not being re-elected as scribe for next year's committee, because this newsletter starts with an insincere apology and ends on the same note. My proof reader has taken leave for a while, so I am left on my own and have no one to blame but myself, for the many grammatical errors that this newsletter may contain. Spelling mistakes can be blamed on my spell-check which should be working, but does not always pick them up; to avoid the grammatical mistakes, I suggest that you read between the lines, that way you can form your own opinion as to what was meant. Cheers, see you on the water, and at the various meetings.

Arthur

