



# South Coast Fly Anglers



## NEWSLETTER February 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.

SCFA have, so far had a good start to the fishing year and this newsletter continues with a good number of events that are scheduled for the coming months, as well as reports on two successful bass outings. Check out the reports in the Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories section, as a couple of these have an important bearing on the future well-being of our club.

### Events Calendar:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
7th February	Special Committee meeting	John's home	18h0
8th February	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15
12th February	Bass Outing	Saxonholme Dam Murchison	07h00
23rd February	Monthly Meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
26th February	Salt water outing	TO Strand	07h00
1st March	Committee Meeting	John's home	18h00
4th March	Prize giving	Steve's home	17h30
5th March	Salt water outing	Impenjati	07h30
8th March	Fly tying Workshop	Neil's home	18h15

### Coming Events.

The **special committee meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> at John's home**, is to sort out the prize winners for 2022.

At the **Fly-tying workshop, which will be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, we will tie the Mylar Sprat and the Filoplume Damsel. As usual, all are welcome and if you don't have the required material, beg, borrow or steal from one of those present.

The **bass outing on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February is at the Saxonholme Farm dam in the Murchison Area**. Meet at the D412 turn-off, on the right, shortly after the Murchison Hospital at 07h00. Kick boats are essential to fish this dam and as there are no braai facilities, bring your sarmies.

Shaun Dickson, a Protea angler, who is also lucky enough to work for Explorer in Durban, will give a fly-tying demo at the February monthly meeting, so don't miss this one. He will possibly tie the Alphlexo Crab or the Wolf Spider, which are both on our tying list for this year. The meeting, as usual will be at the **'Tweni Tennis Club on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 18h00 for 18h30**. Braai afterwards.

After our last few foiled attempts in the surf, we will again give the salt a bash on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. This time we will try the **TO Strand** beach. Be there at any time before or after 07h00. At the time of writing, (last week of January,) the water north of the 'Kulu has cleaned up very nicely and a number of areas are yielding shad on a regular basis, so this outing may be a good one to try and add that elusive Pomatomus to your list. I'm afraid that there are again no braai facilities, so it is once again, "Sarmie time."

Steve's home is the venue for the **Prize giving function on 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Please don't get there before 17h30, because Steve will not yet have fed his guard dogs and as he does not have public liability insurance, you will have to pay for your remains to be disposed of; that is, if it is worth disposing of any remains.

Another salt water outing, this time to **Impenjati on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. Gates are scheduled to open at 7h30, but have been known to open a tad before this. We will braai after the fishing, so bring what you wish.

### Past Events.

**Bass outing to Dunston's Dam, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.** By Arthur Cary.

Nature decreed that the saltwater outing, scheduled for the Mbizane Estuary and the Ramsgate beach, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January, be cancelled.



Heavy rain in the first week of the year, ensured that the sea was an unequal solution of mud, debris and water. 80% mud, 10% sticks and 10% water.

Pieter's powers as Liaison Officer came to the rescue and he organised Trevor Dunston's dam in Murchison, as a substitute, in next to no time.

In addition to a very nice tilapia of nearly a kg and a half, John landed over 40 bass, some of which were in the 30cm range. Ken also caught over 40 bass, the majority were under 20 cm, but a few equalled those caught by John. Piet netted 15 fish from the western bank, while Stan, fishing the east bank from his kick boat, caught 12. Arthur reasoned that larger flies would yield larger fish, and only finished with a tally of 5; no big ones among them though!

Toi toiled long and hard for her one fish from the dam wall. (She however landed up with tackies, socks and long pants covered in burrs from the weeds lining the banks of the dam.) Mike S, who is battling a very sore and swollen leg, could not get a fish to take his offerings. Marion did not fish, but did a great job of getting Ken's lunch ready.

The most successful flies included Red Setter, Flipper, John's Go-To-Fly, Olive Cactus Chenille Nymph and a variety of different coloured Woolly Buggers.

As Steve missed this outing, (incidentally, this is his first blank in a very long time,) Stan did the honours with the braai. He managed this admirably, in fact he managed it magnificently and what's more, did not even drop one piece of wors into the sand, which was a disappointment to the expectant audience. All in all, a very pleasant outing, with which to get the fishing year on the roll.

### **Bass outing to Dunston's Dam. Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.** By Stephen Brand.

John pitched up just after 06h00, followed by Stan, Sakkie, Neil and Rob. Steve and Piet arrived a short while later, as often happens, Mitch rocked up after we had already packed our gear. (*Arthur missed this one, as he had been bitten by a neighbour's dog and had to take the poor animal to the local car wash to have her mouth washed out! Ed*)

John caught plenty of small ones on Woolly Bugger and the Jacaranda Fly, as well as on his Orange Go-To-Fly. Neil landed 15 odd bass on an Orange Popper, while Sakkie got 14 on Mitch's Special Viva. Champion Stan, brought 70 odd to the net, using an Olive Woolly Bugger. Rob finished off with 20 plus, using Mitch's Viva and Jacaranda Fly. Piet fished from his usual bank and landed 15 on his favourite Olive Cactus Chenille Nymph. Steve used an Olive Tube Dragon, to hook over 30 fish, of which he could only land 5. (*Most of these fish are too small to really get hold of a large fly. Ed*)

Steve and Stan erected the gazebo and lit the fire.

This time Stan did not disappoint the group and true to form, dropped Rob's samoosa into the sand, as usual no initial apology, just a soft curse and a little chuckle, followed by a fairly sincere, "Sorry Rob, but it is not too bad."

Weather was overcast with the temperature hovering around a sultry 29 degrees; the southerly breeze, was however very refreshing.

### **Monthly Meeting. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Umtentweni Tennis Club.**

**Present:** 14 members. **Apologies:** David, Mike S, Toi, Kevin, Mike K and Conner

**Flies of the Month:** Judged by Sakkie

**Freshwater:** **Backwater Bass Bent Back:** Sean, Arthur, Neil, Steve and Dick.

**Saltwater:** **Gully Bugger:** Neil, Mitch, Sean, Steve, Dick, John and Arthur.

As usual, Sakkie's judgment came in for a lot of good-natured stick from the losers. Why is it that the losers are always the bad sports and why is it that the winners never complain? Well done, Sakkie, you deserve your one point for doing a really good job.

### **General.**

Sean gave some details of membership fees for the Underberg - Himeville Trout Fishing Club. The club has access to 18 dams and 14 river beats, covering 60 km on the Umzimkulu and Pholela Rivers in the Underberg - Himeville area. The still waters can be fished all year, but the rivers have a closed season from 15 May to 31 Aug.

Three dams and 3 river beats are available for non-member, day visitors, at a cost of R180.00 per day. The fee is reduced to R120.00 per day if the non-member is accompanied by a member of UHTFC.



Joining UHTFC: There is a once off joining fee of R500.00. Annual subs are R395.00 for members over 70 years of age and R1100.00 for youngsters.

If you are going to fish the area on a regular basis, it is well worth considering, as the dams and rivers produce big fish on a regular basis. On the other hand Wattled Crane and Mountain Lake actually take a lot of beating. Contact details: > [uhtfcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uhtfcoffice@gmail.com) < phone 082 636 3995. According to at least one SCFA member you may have a bit of a wait to get a reply from their office.

Jaco and Sean gave a combined report on a recent visit to the Underberg area, where they fished both the Umzimkulu and the Pholela rivers. They caught a number of smaller trout and were both broken up by really good fish.

Piet reported that Liam's clients are doing well in the salt up on the Seychelles' island of Cosmolido. GT's, Bonefish, Trigger Fish, Liam will be back towards the end of May and it will be good to hear his stories and see proof that there are in fact still fish in the sea.

Not a fly-fishing story, I'm sad to report, but Sakkie gave a very brief account of fishing the Zambezi River with his Rhodesian buddies. They unfortunately lost out on first place by the narrowest of margins.

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



As mentioned in the December newsletter, the AGM looms. This means that, among other matters that will receive attention, is the election of a new committee. The current six committee members have a combined total of 50 years unbroken service on committee. Give some thought as to whether you would accept nomination onto the committee for a few years. In doing so you could bring a breath of fresh air to the old geezers who are currently in office.



If you have not yet returned your raffle list and money to Steve, please do so immediately.



Pat Leary dropped me a line from Cape town the other day. He is keeping well and wishes all members all the best for a fishful 2023.

### **Last Cast.**

My pen has once again run dry, and all I have to add is that it will be great to see a good turnout at the various meetings and outings that are in the pipe line.

Cheers Arthur

