



East Cape Regional Chapter

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Chairmans Report – 2015 AGM **Amatola Club House – Gubu dam** 14 November 2015

Dear Members,

Another year has flown by and it is again time to review events which have transpired over the past 12 months which have influenced our chosen sport of Fly Fishing both here in the Eastern Cape, as well as further afield in the rest of the country. This will be a brief report, as most of what I need to say will be covered in more detail in the Agenda categories to follow.

As far as our water levels go, we are currently a Province of “feast and famine”. Down in the coastal areas, we have had flooding over the past 3 months, to the extent that we have not yet been able to stock any of my home club waters in the PE region. In the Rhodes area of North Eastern Cape, Dave Walker reports that the tributaries of the Kraai are drying up. Most waters are still fine for now, but marginal areas will need rain quite soon. Stillwater fishing in some areas, has been spectacular.

The past 12 months have once again been dominated by the ongoing NEM:BA debate. Based on previous agreements between the DEA and FOSAF/Trout SA, we all thought that the “Trout Wars” had been won and that sanity had finally prevailed. Unfortunately, in the latest interpretations of the NEM:BA, it appears that the DEA have once again reneged on previous agreements. FOSAF National Chairman Ilan Lax has been in the front line of these negotiations and will provide more detail of the latest developments in the NEM:BA update, item 9 on the Agenda.

Martin Davies has been supplying the East Cape with Trout for almost 30 years now from the RU hatchery and is the main reason why the East Cape has probably more approved Green Trout areas, than the rest of the country combined. Martin will be retiring at the end of 2016 and Alan Hobson and I, on behalf of the Chapter, have been actively engaging with RU Management to try and ensure a smooth succession plan and also to promote that Martins services be retained post retirement in some form, so as not to lose his expertise and enthusiasm. Martin will submit his Fish Supplies Report under item 10 on the Agenda. This will no doubt be a typically brief report.

Promoting, developing and marketing Fly-Fishing in the Eastern Cape as the destination of choice for local, National and International anglers.



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Regarding Chapter membership, I would like to welcome The PE Fly Tying Guild on board, in the Service Provider category. Gary Grobler is Chairman of the Guild and is here today. Most of the Guild members are in fact already members of various Clubs in the Chapter.

Maclear FFC –. At the 11th hour en route to our AGM, I received a call from the Maclear FFC Treasurer, indicating that they would like to pay their subs and re join the EC Chapter after an absence of 2 years. It is worth noting that it was FOSAF intervention with PG Bison 10 years ago that secured the Maclear waters for their Club. We welcome their return to the fold.

Regarding the relationship between the FOSAF EC Chapter and ECFFA (the competitive East Cape based wing of SAFFA) - during correspondence initiated by Theuns Botha of ECFFA in early August, I agreed that we needed to form a closer relationship, based on resolutions taken during our 2013 AGM which were never implemented by the ECFFA. Theuns indicated that he would be standing down as ECFFA Chairman at their AGM on the 8th August, I requested that he advise me of the contact details of their new Chairman and I would invite him to attend our AGM. This information was not supplied, so no invitation was sent.

This concludes my report. In closing, I would like to thank you all for attending, some of you having travelled a long way to be here. In particular, I would like to thank Ilan Lax for once again taking time off from his busy schedule to be here and to share with us his in depth knowledge of all that is going on in the NEM:BA saga. Also thanks to Edward Truter and the Amatola club for once again allowing us the use of this great facility to hold our AGM's.

Thank You

Brian Clark

Chairman – FOSAF EC Chapter

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