

Chairmans Report – 2025 AGM
Amatola Club House – Gubu dam
29th March 2025

Dear Members,

Firstly, thank you for taking the trouble to attend our 2025 AGM. As always, it is a pleasure to hold this event at Gubu, where we can (hopefully) catch some Trout and socialise after the business side is completed. This is a great venue and is a tribute to the Amatola Club Committee, headed by Edward Truter. 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 and in the FOSAF National Chairman's report from Ilan Lax. Ilan was unable to attend this year, due to a commitment which he could not avoid.

- The past 6 months have been relatively quiet for FOSAF National with items such as NEMBA and the National Freshwater (Inland) Wild Capture Fisheries Policy seemingly on hold. Ilan will enlarge on this in his National Chairman's Report. What is clear is that support for FOSAF National is dwindling country wide and the reasons for this need to be analysed by National EXCO urgently. There are only 14 paid up members of FOSAF National in the Eastern Cape, which is a poor reflection of our commitment to maintaining the continuity of our chosen sport into the future.
- Catch Returns. Most of our East Cape waters full and are producing well. There have been some outstanding catches reported from most of our waters over the last 6 months or so, with Thrift probably leading the way with some huge Browns and Rainbows being landed. Most of you would have seen the pics as evidence. This is a tribute to Martin Davies and his perserverance over the years. Gubu continues to produce well with some nice Browns still being reported. We may catch a few this week end. Reg reports that the Queenstown and surrounding Stormberg waters are also producing well. And then there is Somerset East, where Trout are not supposed to thrive, but they do. So overall, things are looking good for us.

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- Hatcheries. There are currently only 2 operational Hatcheries in the Eastern Cape, Martin's Hare street Hatchery in Grahamstown and the Anderson's Hogsback Hatchery. The Morgan's Ventnor Hatchery has been mothballed after the disaster in 2023 when all of the Trout Fingerlings were lost during a load shedding episode. There was also a possibility that Hogsback may have been affected due to Kurt Anderson considering leaving our shores. Fortunately, this has not happened and Hogsback will hopefully continue to supply any shortfall from Hare street for now and into the future, especially for the Amatola waters and surrounds. I can report that, a few months ago, I invited Kurt Anderson to join the East Cape chapter so that we could promote their Hatchery and improve communication. He declined, as he preferred to remain independent and not be bound by any expectations for supplying Trout to anyone, but would basically continue as before.

The bottom line here is that 2 Hatcheries are not enough to guarantee our East Cape requirements into the future, even though Martin has made some notable improvements to his Hare Street facility. "Importing" fish from Jack Avni is not sustainable in the long term. This can be discussed under item 9 in the Agenda. That is about all that I can think of, except to thank everyone who has helped and made a contribution to keeping our Chapter going over the past year.

Brian Clark

Chairman

FOSAF East Cape Chapter

22.03.2025

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