



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER March 2025

Chairman: John New (078 203 4549) **Treasurer:** Stephen Brand (082 551 9010) **Secretary:** Dick Plaistow (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)

Preparing to cast.

This month we have the Events Calendar, up to the beginning of April and as usual, some added detail of these events.

We also have reports on our last two outings, as well as a word or two on the coming AGM, scheduled for Thursday 27th March. Here, apart from the usual agenda, we will accept or reject some proposed alterations to the SCFA Constitution, as well as elect a new committee.

A good way to stay out of trouble with Steve, is to ensure that your raffle lists and money are handed in well before Prize Giving, which is at the home of Steve and Olga on Saturday 5th April.

Events Calendar.

Date	Event	Venue	Time
March 5th	Committee meeting	Arthur's home	18h00
March 9th	Saltwater outing	Umtentweni Granny Pool	Early
March 12th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
March 17th	Grub & travel meeting	John's home	18h00
March 21st to 24th	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
March 27th	AGM	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
April 5th	Prize giving	Steve's home	18h00

Coming Events:

The **Committee meeting is at Arthur's home on Wednesday 5th March at 18h00**. Supper will be provided, so bring only your liquid refreshments. If any club member has a preferred venue for an outing, contact one of the committee members and we will fit it in, for one of the coming months.

There is a **saltwater outing to the Umtentweni Granny Pool on Sunday 9th March**. As there are no braai facilities here, bring your sarmies and liquid refreshments for the post-fishing chat in the car park.

Although we do not have a FotM competition for March, **we will still hold a workshop at Neil's home on Wednesday 12th March**, where we will tie a Foam Grasshopper and a Hi-Viz-Midge. Neil says that he has foam for the Grasshopper and CDC for the Midge. BYO other materials, or bum some from someone there. Recipes have been sent out to members.

The **Grub and travel meeting for the Wattled Crane trout trip is at John's home (4 Flame Tree Road, Southport, at 18h00 on Monday 17th March.)**

Wattled Crane, in the Kokstad area, is the venue for the trout trip from Friday 21st March to Monday 24th March.

The **monthly meeting on Thursday 27th March at the Umtentweni Tennis Club (18h00 for 18h30) is actually the AGM**. Most AGMs are avoided by members, lest they be given a portfolio on the Committee. This is not the case at SCFA. You may land up with a twisted arm, but rest assured, you will not be given any job that you do not want!!!!

By the time that you receive this newsletter you would have received the Notice of the AGM Meeting, as well as the Agenda and the proposed changes to the SCFA Constitution. Note that only those items listed under "Alterations to the Constitution" can be voted on. There will be no debate on the merits or demerits of these proposals and no new alterations can be proposed at the meeting. If we stick to these "rules," this item will be slick and quick, if not we could sit there all night.



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Prize giving is at the home of Stepen and Olga Brand on Saturday 5th April at 18h00. The evening will take the form of a BYO braai: the committee will supply salads, (bring your own meat and liquid refreshments) and Olga will supply a pudding. **Believe me, it is worth attending just for the pudding!!!!**
To facilitate catering please, RSVP Steve on or before the AGM on Thursday, 27th March.
Please ensure that your raffle sheets have been handed in to Steve before the 5th April.

Past Events.

Saltwater outing to Kidd's Beach. Glenmore. Sunday 9th February. By Sean Tharratt.

John was first on the beach followed by Sean. It was an overcast morning, with a slight breeze blowing and the water was slightly coolish. After a few minutes, Sean got 3 wave garrrick, on the right of the bay, near the rocks. As the morning went by, a few more gents showed up to fish, but unfortunately, there seemed to be no more fish activity and as the wind had also become stronger, everyone retired to the car park for some sarmies and the usual chit chat.

Bass outing to the Saxonholme Dam in the Paddock area. Sunday 23rd February. By Arthur Cary.

It remains unclear why only six of us pitched up at the Saxonholme dam on the appointed day. The weather was perfect and the 5 kms of dirt road is in good condition; few stones and little mud; easily traversable by a sedan.

Admittedly, there were a couple of apologies from members, but still, those who missed out, "Sorry you lost," because a bucket load of fish was caught. This may have been partially due to the water temperature being about 25 degrees, with good water clarity, despite the recent rains. The extensive lily pads all over the dam, give the fish plenty of hiding places, but there is fortunately, sufficient open water between the pads, to get in a shot or two and this resulted in a coconut every time.

Ninety percent of the fish were small, in the 6-, 8- and 10-inch range, (nothing bigger than a # 6 hook was required,) but John got a beut of over one kg, taken on a Flipper; this together with a Jacaranda, pushed his score to over 30. Neil and Arthur both managed 20 plus, using surface flies. Neil used a Flipper and a Popper to good effect, while Arthur relied on a yellow and green Grasshopper, tied on a # 8 hook.

Steve fished from the bank, near the launch site and took 7, on a brown Good Doctors Beetle. Mitch also fished the bank for a short while and got one on a green Montana.

Mark was the happiest angler of the day, as he landed his first ever bass and actually finished off with 7, caught on a DDD and a Minkie. Among his haul was one of roughly 500 grams, taken on the DDD.

We had the usual very sociable braai, under a gazebo, thoughtfully supplied by Steve. (We really needed this, as the sun was giving it a good go, by mid-day.) All in all, a very pleasant morning and worth another outing after the Paddock Compo, which is on the 21st to 23rd March.

Note: Most of our local dams hold huge numbers of small fish and many farmers would like us to remove the "likkel ones," so that the remainder grow out to a decent size. In future, owners will be asked if they want us to practise this thinning out process, so when we have a bass outing, bring along some sort of a holding net, drum or other receptacle for this purpose.

Monthly meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 27th February.

Present: 14 members. (It was good to see that Matt is still around, as he has been absent for a while.)

Apologies: Pat Leary, Conner and Liam (still "otherwise occupied.") Ken and David, Toi and Mike S (in Cape Town.,) Dick (stuck in the middle of the OFS with car trouble,) and Mike K. (working hard)

FotM: Judged by Sakkie. (Well done, Pieter, with your first entries into the competition.)

Freshwater: Elk Ear Caddis: Neil, Sean, Pieter C, Arthur, John, Steve.

Saltwater: Argentinian Blonde: Neil, Pieter C, Sean, Steve, Mitch, John, Arthur.

Freestyle: (Any pattern of the tiers choice.) Mitch (Grey tail,) Mitch (Shad Blonde,) Arthur (Flash Back Nymph.)



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General:

John got roundly ragged about his recent visit to the Mzamba and Bizana “Historic Cultural Museums,” especially since he now has the appropriate hair-cut.

Arthur gave a short report on Sunday’s outing to the Saxonholme Dam. (See report above.)

Warren reported that Conner is doing well in the States. Catching Peacock Bass (with lures, as he cannot yet afford a fly rod!)

Neil reported on his recent trip to Sterkfontein, where he managed to catch 4 yellow fish and hooked (but lost,) 3 bass. He has been there many times, but these were the first bass that he has hooked.

He said that although the yellows were spawning, they were at times extremely spooky and would dash off, having seen a slight movement of an angler, even though he was crouching 20 or 30 metres from the water’s edge. He caught his fish on a Wolf Spider and Stimulator, but the fish would more often than not, try and “drown” the fly, rather than eat it. He also reported that the dam has a lot more weed than he has seen in previous years; In fact, there are areas where one cannot fish, due to the density of this. He is of the opinion that this is not as bad a situation as one would think, because this weed provides areas of safety for the yellowfish fry, especially as the bass seem to be increasing in number.

Steve was extremely busy before the meeting started, with taking subs and raffle money. As seen from his financial statement, funds are slightly down on last year, but will benefit from subs, raffle and Mater at Arms contributions in the coming month.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



As this is my last newsletter for the SCFA year, let me post a huge “Thank you,” to all the local farmers for allowing South Coast Fly Anglers to fish their waters. We really do appreciate your generosity and apologise for the occasional glitch, where we contact you at the last minute, when looking for a venue. We trust that the friendly relationship that SCFA enjoys with the farming community, continues for many years to come.



As mentioned last month, subs are due (R 60.00 per single Junior member, R 110 .00 per single Adult member and R 160.00 for family membership.) As noted in the proposed changes to the Constitution, this is payable by the end of April, or you forfeit your membership.



Had a call from Pat, in Cape Town the other day; he was checking on John’s well-being and sends regards to all. Not fishing as much as he should be; blames the pollution of the various dams in and around the area.



Although we have just had the injection of 3 new members, we are unfortunately about to lose 4 of our current band, due to pressures from various angles. Both Jaco and Mike Kirkham are extremely busy at work and Johan and Megan will also not be renewing their membership. Sorry to lose you all, but remember, you are always welcome at an outing, or at any of our functions. We will keep you on the distribution list. (p.s. Just have a chat to Steve about paying your fines!!!!)



A word of warning to all: If you receive a summons for any offence that you have committed, **“Don’t let Sakkie get his hands on it.”** (SCFA members will know the details behind this serious warning.)

Last Cast. No space for me to add anything, other than to again thank the many club contributors for their articles during the past year. Long may it be so. Cheers, Arthur.

