



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER March 2026

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 (076 312 0417) **Member:** Neil Scott (083 265 6608)

Preparing to cast.

Well, as the SCFA year gradually draws to a close, it is again time to thank each and every member for your contributions during the past year. All in all, I think that it has once again been a very successful year, Members did not do very well in the numbers of fish caught, especially in the saltwater department, but on the social side, we certainly excelled.

The AGM is coming up at the end of the month, which means you again need to select your committee for the next 12 months. As I have pointed out in years gone by, the current committee has not changed for at least 5 years, while some of the members have been in office for more than 15 years. I admit that they are still doing a good job, but that does not mean that new blood cannot equal or surpass the efforts of those who are currently in office. Give it some thought and see you at the meeting on the 26th. Cheers Arthur.

Events calendar.

Date	Event	Venue	Time
March 4th	Committee meeting	Arthur's home	18h00
March 11th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
March 13th to 16th	Trout outing	Wattled Crane	TBA
March 26 th	AGM	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
March 28th	Prize giving	Steve's home	18h00

Coming Events

We kick off in March with a Committee meeting at Arthur's home. Cottage pie, salads and pudding will be supplied, but bring your own liquid refreshments. Top of the items that will be discussed, will be prize winners for 2025. I trust that last year's trophy winners have returned their trophies, so that the new plaques can be applied before being presented. **If you still have yours on the mantle-piece, get it to John immediately!**

Even though we do not have a fly-tying competition in March, a **workshop will still be held at Neil's home on Wednesday 11th March.** We will tie the Klinkhammer and the Woolly Worm flies under Neil's instruction. Bring your vice and tying tools, Thread your bobbin with dark thread. No need to bring recipes or materials, as we will use material supplied by the club.

The AGM is on Thursday 26th March at the Umtentweni Tennis Club at 18h00 for 18h30. Subs are due, so bring along your dues, (R 110.00 for a single member and R 160.00 for family members.) As you well know, the meeting does not take long and the Master-at-Arms will be quick in relieving you of a spot of your hard-earned cash, before we can settle down to the usual braai.

I hope that you have returned your raffle lists to Steve by the time that you read this, if not, make sure that you do so before the AGM, as Steve will be busy collecting subs and gets pretty peeved, if he has to deal with raffle money at the same time.



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Prize giving on the 28th is an event not to be missed. Be there for the fellowship with members, wives and families, as well as the distinct possibility of getting a lucky dip prize. Steve and Belinda always make sure that every-one who attends, goes away with a packet of goodies, from home-made jams, marmalades or pickles, to a host of fishing and other items. The committee will supply the salads, but bring your own meat for the braai and something to wet your whistle.

Past Events.

Saltwater outing to Ramsgate beach and lagoon. Sunday 8th February. By Stephen Brand.

Warren and Conner arrived first at 06h00 followed by Steve, Rob, Mitch, Arthur, John, Sakkie, Dick, Ken, Dave, Elisa, Marion and Mark.

Weather was pleasantly warm, until the wind got up around 08h00 from the south-west.

John, 3 wave garrrick on a Black Zulu, Mitch, 1 wave garrrick on a black fly, Warren and Conner, 1 wave garrrick each on Crazy Charlies, Sakkie, 0 on a Clouser, Dick used a walking stick, Rob, 0 on a Charlie, Steve, 0 on a pink Surf Puff, Arthur, 0 on a Gully Bugger, Bait Fish and a Crazy Charlie, Ken, 6 on a Chartreuse Charlie and Elisa and David, 1 each, also on a Chartreuse Charlie, Mark, 0 using his Spey rod with Minnow patterns, Charlies and Clousers. Total fish caught 15.

Bass outing to Steve's dam. Sunday 22nd February. By Rob Nicholas.

Present: Steve, Arthur, John, Rob, Sakkie, Ken, Marion, David S, Elisa, David M, Mike S, Toi, Pieter vd M. and Declan.

The weather was great and much effort was evident in preparing kick boats and tackle. The dam was subjected to a thorough pounding by all the fishermen, but the only result was Steve 1 and David M. 2. The rest produced a blob. As the day progressed the heat built up and by 09h30 just about everyone had packed up to prepare for the braai, which was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Monthly meeting. Umtentweni Tennis Club. Thursday 26th February 2026.

Present: 18 members. **Apologies:** Dick, David S.

Fly of the Month. Judged by Frank

Freshwater: Filoplume Damsel: John, Neil, Arthur, Sean, Toi.

Saltwater: Mylar Sprat: Neil, Toi, Neil, John, Arthur.

Freestyle: Pieter C. (Blue Side Minnow,) Pieter C. (Drain Fly,) Pieter C. (Blue Popper.)

General: Rob forgot his flippers at Steve's dam after Sunday's bass outing; fortunately, these were retrieved by a good Samaritan and were put up for auction at the meeting. Pieter v d M. and John were the initial strong bidders, joined by Ken and others, but Rob sneaked in at the last minute to seal the deal. Steve eagerly awaits his payment.

Congratulations to Pieter C. on winning a ski boat compo in Durban. If he had not won, he would have received a hefty fine, as it was not a fly-fishing event!! Well done, Pieter C.

Sean reported that the Matat. Trout Compo. is on hold, as the club awaits action from the Municipality on fixing the ablution block. Don't hold your breath on this one. The Kokstad and Underberg Compos. are also on hold until the Foot and Mouth outbreak in these areas is under control. Don't hold your breath on this one either. Will try and keep you posted on progress with these events.

Toi has finally really been giving her Tenkara rod a go and has had considerable success with small tilapia in their local dam.

Conner fished Voigt's and Dunstone's dams recently, with a fair degree of success, catching a few decent sized bass.



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Neil, Dick and non-member, John Neaves, camped up at Silver Streams for four days in mid-February, and besides having had a good time, they landed relatively few fish, although a few were in the 12-inch to 15-inch range. On arrival, the rivers were running clear, but far too strongly and using dry flies was out of the question. As the water level dropped, catch rates improved and Dick landed up with 7, Neil 6 and although John did not get any to the net, he had a really good pull from a large fish, but failed to set the hook. The most successful flies were a Wolf Spider with short legs and various hopper patterns. Despite the R 80.00 fee for fishing above the waterfall, there are some really good pools in the Bushman's River about 3 km above the water fall and Neil saw some really good fish in the deep and clear water.

Steve tabled the financial report, which shows that despite SCFA sponsoring members to the tune of over R 10,00.00 during the year, the figures do not look too bad at all, but will definitely benefit from the payment of subs, raffle money and fines next month.

A quick Grub and Travel meeting was held for those going to Wattled Crane on the 13th to the 16th of March. John and Arthur will travel together, Rob will be on his own, Frank and Mitch team up, while Steve and Sakkie make up the rest of the 7-man group. As the cottage now only boasts 6 beds, John will supply a stretcher for Sakkie, who will kip on the veranda. We will depart at about 6 am on Friday morning and meet up somewhere along the way.

Grub will consist of burgers on the Friday night, brunch on Saturday and Sunday morning, beef stew, (supplied by Steve) on Saturday evening and braai on Sunday evening. Sakkie will make the sadza and gravy, while Arthur and John will do the buying on the Thursday morning.

Saltwater outing to Rocky Bay. Sunday 1st March. By Arthur Cary.

The outing to Rocky Bay was certainly something of a curate's egg. When rating the turnout, I would give it a 50%, as only 6 members and Marion and Elisa turned up. Certainly expected more, as for once the weather was really good. No apologies were received, so the guilty ones each get a black mark.

Rating of the fellowship gets an 80%, as we were pretty spread out, from a couple of kilos south of the parking area, to an equal distance to the north, but there were 7 of us at the breakfast, which gets a 95% plus rating for excellent value for money, surroundings and good service. Weather also gets a high score; a near shower, followed by a cooling breeze which offset the gradually rising temperature, made for perfect conditions.

We now get to the reason why we travelled all the way to this venue; the fishing. Here, we have to give a score of 40% for each fish caught, to get us to a decent rating, as only John and David S. landed one small wave garriick each.

Our lack of success was not due to a lack of effort. Neil was already way out on the southern rocky points, when John and Arthur arrived at 06h30, followed shortly by Steve, Ken, David, Marion and Elisa. John and Arthur also headed south, with John opting to fish off the rocks, while wobbly Arthur stayed well away from these and fished a promising looking sandy bay. The open beaches to the north of the ski-boat launch area also looked very inviting, so Ken and David trudged up that way.

A slight south westerly breeze threatened to blow us away, but dropped as suddenly as it had sprung up and the resultant lull was followed by a slight north-easterly, which was cooling and assisted all of us, being right-handed casters. Water conditions looked perfect, and we could easily get a fly beyond the second line of breakers on numerous occasions, but the fish were just not there, although John and Neil both saw fish showing sufficient interest to follow a passing fly, but insufficient interest to give it a good bite.

Steve, having come up from Trafalgar, (a round trip of roughly 200 km) decided that he would head for home early, while Arthur and John gradually worked their way up towards Ken and David, where David finally hooked and landed a small wave garriick, using, what can only be described as a really grotty looking (ex) Chartreuse Crazy Charlie. John also landed a wave garriick on a dark Streamer tied on a #8 hook.

I would not say that we finally accepted defeat graciously, but we finally retired to the Bell restaurant for brekker, which, as said before was really good.



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Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



No matter how many times it is repeated, there will still be defaulters, but here goes: **Have you returned your raffle lists to Steve?**



Have you returned your trophies to John?



Give some thought to the composition of the Committee for next year.



Hope to see a good turn-out for the AGM on the 26th and for prizegiving on the 28th.



In coastal waters off Florida, small zinc-and-graphite blocks, rigged above fishing hooks, reduced shark catch by around two-thirds, according to the [study](#), which was published in the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* on Jan. 15. Check out: <https://share.google/oAfUnaYncLAUBnjZ3> to read the full story.

Last Cast Over the past year, readers have heard enough from me, so I will once again only say “Thank you to members and readers for your input into the newsletter each month. Without your co-operation, it would not happen. Well done to you all.”
Cheers. Arthur.

