

AMATOLA FLY FISHING CLUB

Incorporating the Frontier Acclimatisation Society and the Stutterheim Trout Angling Club

NEWSLETTER – SPRING / SEPTEMBER 2014



The main subject for now is a quick report back on our weekend's fundraising open day and one or two other snippets.

The weather for this year's annual competition on the 6th September was the exact opposite of what we had to fight with last year and 35 anglers converged on our waters to enjoy the sunshine, mild breezes, and good fishing. We did not record the total number of fish caught, and as it was a single-biggest-fish-wins format competition, so only a few of the biggest fish were killed and brought to the scale. However, in just talking to the anglers, I gathered that the average total catch for the day's two fishing sessions was around seven trout per person (that makes the total catch 200 plus). Most of the fish were in the 38 – 41 cm size class, for an average weight of 700g. These are last year's stockies and just over a year old. It is pleasing to see how they've grown, their condition factor, and just how feisty they are when hooked. Thinking about this time next year is thus a happy thought.

The biggest fish for the day, actually the two biggest fish for the day were caught by the same chap, Wiele Coetzee. Although Wiele is a very experienced angler, his day on Gubu was his first flailing a fly rod, so it was ironic that he came out on top with his 1.7kg winning fish. His gain also proved a windfall for the club as the night before the competition, Andrew Pautz set up a betting book calling for bets on who was going to win, with 50% of the proceeds going to the club. However, as Wiele was an unknown dark horse at the time, his name didn't come into play, so the whole stash defaulted to the club. Nice. Grezelda Stokes caught the biggest fish amongst the ladies, though her competition was a little thin on the water and we are going to have to make a better plan next year to make her kickboat ride a little less plain sailing. Amongst the juniors, it was close-shaves all-round with Victor Krull staying just slightly luckier than Ryan von Holdt and Dean Stokes. It was nice to see more *laaities* at this year's event and also to see that these youngsters know some things about fly casting and fishing.

In the casting competitions, Karl Krull went the distance on the furthest cast with a standard outfit *and* casting with a broomstick. Shane Ashby scored highest in the accuracy event. Other names to mention to do with good casting are Martin von Holdt, his son, Ryan, and Dean Stoltz. Next year someone needs to blow Karl out of the water, so start practicing, most of you have a height advantage to start with.

The evenings in the clubhouse were a proper party. I always thought that Dean Stoltz from Target Line was a rather quiet fellow. But when the moon got up and he took his guitar out, the tree dassies wailing in the forest around the dam wall were drowned out by strumming and humming and various sing-alongs. Craig Rance also climbed behind the guitar, which also surprised me pleasantly, a bit like seeing a guineafowl run on water would surprise me. Of course there were was a never ending stream of fishing stories flooding through the background noise. The one I enjoyed the most being told by Warren Summers when he explained how he caught a yellowfish in the Kubusi so big that as he lifted it out of the pool, the water level dropped. Hell, that's some fish swaer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors and folks who helped out to make the weekend what it was and also those who are always at hand to lend one. We raised nearly 1/3rd of the stocking budget required this year and so it is a solid shot in the arm to us developing quality fisheries at Gubu and Maden. In alphabetical order I wish to thank the following names and brands, Andrew Pautz (he also cleaned up the clubhouse after everyone left it like the Margate Pier after a shad run), CB4 Retail and Malcolm Klein, Columbia Sportswear and Jackie Badenhorst, Compusys and Matt Bekker, Debonairs Oxford Street and Glenn Raath, Dean Rhind, Distell (Hunter's Gold & Sedgewick's Old Brown) and Sarah Gibson, Hylton Lewis, Karl and Victor Krull, The Kingfisher and Shane Maharaj, Martin von Holdt, Pennypinchers and Miles Vice, Omnispool and Alex Macleod, Robin & Ronald (in the house on the hill), Rapala VMC and Grant Pledger, Rance Timber / Amathole Forestry Company and Craig Rance, Craig Warren, and Francois Sparks, Sandile's Rest and Grant Wylie, Target Line and Dean Stoltz, Tourette Fishing and Keith Clover and Rob Scott, Xplorer and John Geils. I would also like to thank Marco Olivieri and our E.L. committee who take the time hold regular meetings in the lead up to the weekend to make sure it happens the way we intend it to. And of course, thank you to all those who come out on the weekend. We'll do it again next year at about the same time.

In other news, I received a message from Gary Grobler who is one of the founder members of the Port Elizabeth Fly Tying Guild that has recently been launched. Anyone interested in wanting to join or know more about it, should contact Gary on 0823520336 / 041-3791483 / gtzr@telkomsa.net

To end on a very important note, all things being equal, our annual stocking will take place at Gubu on Friday the 7th of November and at Maden on Saturday the 8th of November. Once again Karl Krull will provide his boat for the Gubu stocking so that we can stock by the individual scoop-net full along all the vegetated and weedy margins. Done this way there's limited chance for bait-balling by predators and the competition for food between the young trout is minimized, which factors give the little ones an immediate boost. A few bucket-fillers and bucket-passers will be required to help out at the Gubu stocking (see below). At Maden we would like to apply the same stocking method, but access to the vegetated zones and marshy areas is difficult and far from the vehicle access point. For Maden's stocking we are thus asking for some manpower with boats on the Saturday. If three or four small boats or canoes or such with electric motors or hand-power can be put on the dam it will make transporting the fish in buckets to the best areas feasible (even guys in kickboats can help). I will be salmon fishing in the Yemen at the time of the stockings so it is all being co-ordinated by committee member, Marco Olivieri. Please let Marco know if you can come and lend a hand, he can be contacted on 0727359740 / marco.olivieri@sanlam4u.co.za.

Tight loops,

Edward



VERY LATE AT NIGHT, CRAIG RANCE ON GUITAR; LIKE A GUINEAFOWL RUNNING ON WATER.