

THE BOBBIN

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DECEMBER 2018

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

As we rapidly head towards the end of another year and with Xmas on the short term forecast I want to start off by wishing all our members and readers of the Bobbin a merry Xmas. To those of you who don't celebrate Xmas I hope that you will also find time to slow down and take the opportunity to put work aside, relax and maybe do some tying. May 2019 bring with it new ideas and challenges, and that all your personal resolutions you set yourselves will come to fruition.

On the Club front our Snowflake weekend is fully subscribed however if you want to be on the standby list then let me know. We need someone to step up and plan a salty trip next year. On the Club/FOSAF membership issue it has been generally agreed that DFT will not make it compulsory for every member to be a FOSAF member. If you wish to take advantage of the discounted FOSAF membership then it is up to the individual member to advise the Treasurer at renewal time. If you have already paid your FOSAF discounted membership via another Club then there is no need to repay a second time.

Those of you fishing rivers will no doubt be praying for good rains as the rivers are very low and clear at the moment. While there are lots of fish around which bodes well for the rest of the season fishing is difficult at best. Given the current situation I won't be surprised if water temperatures get up to 20 deg at which point it's probably better not to fish at all. Alternatively take a leaf out of Craig Thom's book (pun intended as Craig runs Netbooks) and break off the hook at the bend and fish the remaining part of the fly. That way you get the take but no hook up thereby letting the fish off an exhausting fight that could be terminal given the elevated temperatures.



FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last Bobbin of the year! It is heartening to see that club members have made contributions to this edition. Gordon Gove reflects on his youthful years as a young forester at Highmoor; Paul Koekemoer tells about catching a beauty in the freezing rain; we hear about an outing on Durban Harbour and a trip to the Orange river; A snapshot of Snowflake Cottage fishing register; and we have a recipe from Tom Sutcliffe on how to cook a guinea fowl (after harvesting its feathers of course!)

I think that if we keep getting contributions (however small) the Bobbin will truly become a newsletter of members' activities! So keep the contributions coming – don't be afraid to write, your contribution can be transformed into readable material.



NEXT MEETING

3 November 2018 /19.00 for 19.30/ Room G1 Westville Library

End of year party. Our guest speaker, Andrew Savides will be telling us about his trip to Slovenia

NOVEMBER FLY OF THE MONTH: BURROWING MAYFLY

SIMON HUNTER BUNN

MATERIALS

- Tail: CDL
- Abdomen and Thorax: CDC
- Post: Antron
- Hackle: Ginger barred cape
- Thread: White (16/0 or 18/0)
- Hook: Gamakatsu F11 in Size #16 or 14

STEP BY STEP

Step 1:

Tie in CDL tail with a length of 1 ½ times body length

Step 2:

Tie in Antron post half way along hook. Wrap up post sufficiently to allow for space to wrap hackle given the CDC body will bulk up the thorax.

Step 3:

Tie in prepared hackle feather dull side of feathers facing you. Fibers' must be at least body length. Tie in feather tip near hook eye and use a portion of the feather to build up head/thorax. Wrap up post.

Step 4:

Tie in CDC feather at tip just behind post. Tie in until the CDL tail is reached. Bring back thread to post.

Step 5:

Twist CDC feather and wrap abdomen up to post. Continue around post and create thorax and head. Tie off against the post.

Step 6:

Wrap hackle feather between 5 and 6 wraps around post and tie off around post.



HIGHMOOR IN THE 1970'S- GORDON GOVE

I arrived at Highmoor in May 1971 as a young forester. At the time Highmoor consisted of some 120 000 ha stretching from Giants Castle reserve in the North to Vergelegen Reserve in the South. The Department of Forestry controlled some 90% of the Drakensberg Mountains and had four foresters in the area. Highmoor was the most isolated and was the station at the highest altitude, being above the sandstone cliffs. Party telephone line, no electricity, wood stoves and the temperature dropping below zero most nights in winter. With no pink insulation in the ceiling life was lived in the warmest part of the house, the kitchen!



When I look back on my time at Highmoor, it's not the fishing that stands out as much as the amazing people who lived and worked in the Berg. The Parks Board officials such as Bill Barnes of Giants Castle and Peter Root of Loteni both who had grown up in the area and had amazing knowledge of the mountains. They were always so willing to impart this knowledge to the young green horns. I once had the pleasure of having Ian Player stay over at Highmoor during my time, a very special memory of spending time with a great man with an immense knowledge and understanding of wildlife and conservation.

There was also Bill Bainbridge who was instrumental in getting Senior Department of Forestry officials to really understand the value of the Berg as a water catchment area and as a wilderness area to be preserved for future generations. I never forget Bill taking me out on a horse ride, he quickly realised that I was better with a Land Rover accelerator pedal.

Life was hard, but we had our lighter moments: One evening, I got a late night call from a senior Forestry Department official asking how bad the fire was. When I told him I was in bed, he got quite agitated. It turned out that on his way back home from a party, he had heard a radio report that Highmoor was burning down. It took me a while to assure him that Highmoor was definitely not burning down as it was in fact raining and had been for a couple of days. The fire turned out to be in the forests behind Harrismith.

One of our staff, after work on a Friday, went off to get his horse behind the offices, only to be chased by "a big brown thing with a huge ugly head". He became the butt of many jokes about his wife, dreams and drinking habits, but a couple of weeks later we found the spoor of a brown hyena in the area.

In 1972 we surveyed some 13 possible dam sites on the Highmoor plateau and in early 1973 the first new dam was built - the small dam below the original Highmoor dam. The idea was turn Highmoor into an intensive use area with fishing as the main activity, this thankfully never happened.

I have always wondered if the small group of oribi that lived on the southern end of the Highmoor plateau have survived. It was always something special to see these beautiful little buck. The serval cat that lived on the upper slopes of the Ncibitwane river valley is also a special memory.

As for the fishing, the trout I remember the most was a brown I caught on one of my trips to Vergelegen. I was fishing the Upper UMzimkhulu River, the water was low - actually practically nothing. I had not seen a fish all morning when I came across a little pool of some 4 m and maybe a meter deep. My first cast into the "far reaches" of the pool resulted in the fly being greedily taken. That little 5inch brown made my day! Highmoor is just one of those very special places.

A BEAUTY IN THE COLD AND RAIN – PAUL KOEKEMOER

It was a freezing cold and rainy day in Underberg. I was bored waiting for clients so I decided to throw a line. I booked the Upper Ericksberg because I've never fished it before. I thought I would try dry flies on fast water using my 3wt and a floating line. The river was shallow and no fish were taking in the riffles. Then I noticed a rise in a deep pool. A couple casts produced nothing. I looked in my box and selected and tied on a small Hamills Killer #10. On my first throw I had a hard hit and my 5x tippet parted. Despite the freezing rain I decided to continue fishing. I tied on another tippet and a Hamills Killer. After thrashing the water for 20 minutes in the miserable wet and rain, I gave up. There were no fish moving or chasing.

Walking back to my car I had to pass Sinister Pool with its deep dark water. I decided that I had to have one last cast. I laid the line out, let it sink and started a retrieve and was then onto a tiny brown. I released it quickly and cast again and allowed the Hamels to sink. When I started my retrieve I immediately got a take and I struck and was on. This was a bigger fish and it took off downstream. All my loose line disappeared and the real screamed, I applied pressure, but not too much and soon my backing was peeling off. I actually thought that I had possibly hooked an otter. I began getting worried when I realized the pool was too short to empty my spool. After giving the fish line and taking some back, she clearly started to tire. After roughly 7 minutes I pulled her to the shallow gravel. I don't use a net. After some pics I released her and she still looked quite strong. I measured her against my rod and later checked – she came in at 50cm.



Editor's note: To honour this great catch, the Hamills Killer has been selected at the Iconic Fly of the month – see below

A DURBAN HARBOUR OUTING

Lured by the smell of frying bacon (or some would say chased by the NE pumping at 6-8 knots) a joint group of the South Coast Fly Anglers and DFT had a R28 breakfast at the Pirates Arms after a joint outing in Durban harbour on 4 November. There were 7 flyfishers from SCFA and 6 from DFT. Apparently a good morning was had by all despite only about 6 small Gurnards caught. Thanks to Graeme Neary for encouraging members to do some fishing and meet new faces.

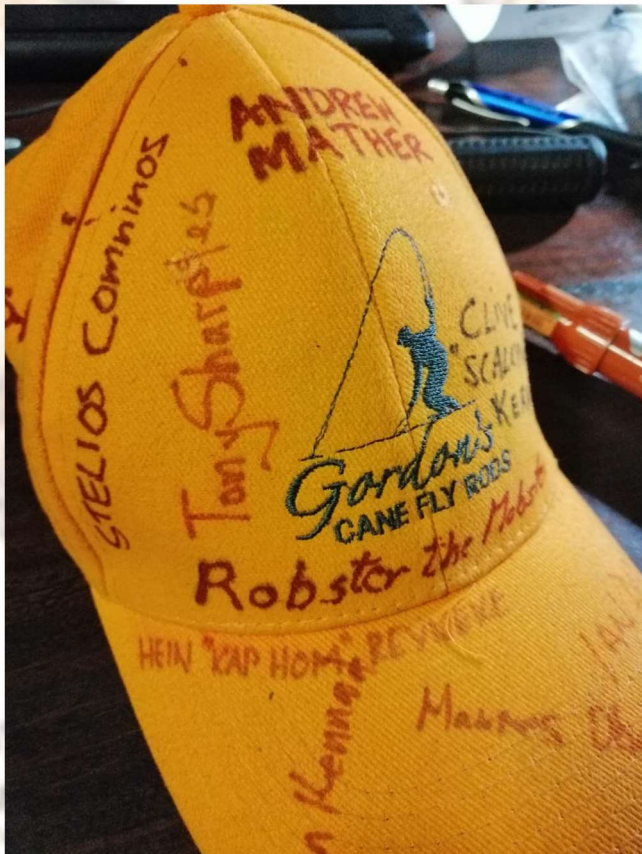


"Have you noticed how my suturing has improved since I learned how to tie flies?"



ORANGE RIVER TRIP

A group of 12 anglers which included Andrew Mather and Stelios Comminos spend three days fishing on the Orange River – organised by Rob Hibbert and hosted by Jacques Marais. A total of about 500 fish were caught of which about 260 were caught on the last day – the first two days were a little chilly and the fish did not want to fully cooperate. Both Andrew and Stelios were awarded the Orange Cap.



SELECTED SNOWFLAKE FISHING RECORDS

DURBAN FLY TYERS	A-21 NOV 2010	CLOUDY (RECENT RAIN)	CLEAR/HOT - WATER >20°C.	UPTO 18 INCHES	BOTH	NYMPH	YES.	DIFFICULT FISHING WITH FISH CAUGHT
Durban Fly Tyers.	2/3 Dec 2011	Mild low & rising Clear to slightly cloudy	Overcast and light rain Partly Cloudy.	14500 10000 lots x 25 million of minnows	Hairs	mainly Nymph (24) behind a club or shrike midweek A few taken on 1" or 2" minnow line with a wool buggie	All	A superb weekend fishing Everyone caught. Some big Not to add a bit of excitement Could not be better!!
The Durban Flytyers	5 to 7 April 13	Fast Full & Clear	Cloudless.	Over 400 fish! 50 to 1000 But some big 40cm & Browns 5-4.	Prime Nymph Heavy. Weight Elk Hair Caddis	All released	Unbelievable. A weekend to remember for the rest of your life.	
Hayden Dayman Marco Breschi Jon Cox Ernie Dany Smit	29/ 4/ 12	Clear	Sunny slight wind		Plenty fish on various fly at different times of day		Hope we come again magic place.	
WARREN, LEE & ANDREW 23 "ZIPPERMOUTH LADS" Sept		GOOD COLOUR	CLEAR & SUNNY	143 FISH ON ONE DAY	ZMC FLY	YES	UNBELIEVABLE FISHING 40 fish from 1 reel!!	

CLIVE COHEN'S GUINEA FOWL RECIPE - TOM SUTCLIFFE

Thanks to you all for a delightful Bobbin and I really enjoyed Laurence's trout recipes in the November Bobbin— smoked, ceviche and cured. Very valuable to keep. It gave me the idea to add one of Clive Cohen's recipes, he being the finest fishing camp cook I ever met and a member, I think still in good standing (you'd have to ask Andrew Levy), of the venerable Society of Woolly Worms. In fact, Clive may even be their current Bard... He prepared this sumptuous meal for us one memorable night in the Branksome Cottage on the banks of the Sterkspruit River, and the cottage is pictured herewith.

This is Clive Cohen's Guinea Fowl recipe.

MUST-HAVE THE INGREDIENTS.

A good mate who is an excellent shot to supply two or three birds! Allow for three medium-sized birds (check there's no birdshot left in them) to feed five to six hungry fishermen.

FOR THE MARINADE:

- 2 onions, peeled and sliced
- 4 cloves garlic crushed
- 500ml well-flavoured stock (beef, veal or chicken)
- 3 carrots, cleaned and roughly chopped
- 2 sticks celery chopped
- bottle full-bodied red wine (must be good enough to drink!)
- 1 bay leaf, 6 juniper berries.

FOR THE CASSEROLE:

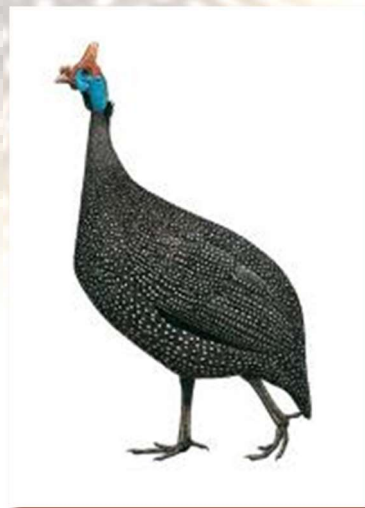
- 2 tbsp tomato puree
- 100g pancetta finely diced,
- 1 bouquet garni
- 18 small pickling onions with skins removed
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp butter
- 250g seasoned flour
- 1 glass red wine,
- 500g button mushrooms
- freshly ground salt and pepper.

METHOD:

Joint the birds into quarters and place in a large, flat dish. Cover with the marinade and let it stand in a cool place for 24 hours. Heat the oven to 140°C. Dredge the guinea fowl pieces in the seasoned flour. In a large oven and stovetop-proof casserole dish with a tightly fitting lid, melt the oil and butter. Add the guinea fowl pieces a few at a time and brown them all over. Remove from the pot and set aside. Fry the pancetta and then pour in the glass of red wine, stirring to deglaze the pot. Return the guinea fowl to the pot and add the marinade ingredients, the stock and the tomato puree. Add the pickling onions and the bouquet garni. Season liberally with the salt and pepper. Put the lid on the pan and transfer to the oven. Cook for at least three hours. Add the button mushrooms and cook for a further 10 minutes on top of the stove. (Note: the guinea fowl should be tender, otherwise cook for longer.) If you are going to pre-cook and/or freeze the guinea fowl only add the mushrooms when you reheat the dish and cook for 10 minutes. This dish really improves when it's reheated so it's ideal to have after a long day's fishing — particularly in winter.

TIPS:

Clive likes to serve the casserole with rice and a seasonal green vegetable.



ICONIC FLIES: HAMILLS KILLER

The Hamills Killer is a style of fly that is in the same family as the Ms. Simpson fly. It imitates the Bully bait fish in New Zealand waters. Used mainly for still water fishing though is also effective when wet lining slower river waters. Retrieve with a smooth pull followed by short pauses. This lure was developed in the 1960's by Bill Hamill, the founder of Hamill's Sports. In his words:

"This lure was developed in the 1960's. It came about from the request of a friend and customer Jack Bell, who was a great angler in the Rotorua Lakes district. He fished Lake Rerewhakaaitu a lot and mentioned that the fish he was catching had many bully and a green / black nymph in their gut. On examination they were probably Dragon Fly nymphs. The 'killer patterns' we mainly used, Kilwell no 1, Lords Killer and Mrs. Simpson were good, but I felt something closer in colour would be better. I dyed some Grey Partridge green and tied some black Squirrel tail with Golden Pheasant tippet feathers so they just showed out the back to give some balance. Using red wool as the two bodies, then tying 2 pair of Partridge on, the fly was complete. When the lure was wet it showed darker and looked better than the other Killer patterns. Jack went out and tried them and had immediate success and came back to the shop and said we had a winner. They became very popular very quickly and I decided to call it Hamill's Killer, making them both in red and yellow bodies."



<https://www.cruiseandfish.co.nz/Links/Hamills-Killer/>

<https://fishingmag.co.nz/new-zealand-fishing-flies/feathered-lures/hamills-killer-trout-fly-john-hey>

<https://fridaynightflies.com/friday-night-flies-hamills-killer/>

<https://youtu.be/XtSOFgWWhfU>

<https://youtu.be/2YXgncXuaqg>

https://youtu.be/5sEKRDpZdzk?list=PLf_qeCDuSiTAHC0XLypMeQAU1v-EpZdfZ

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	Terry Andrews	083 2519264	81tbone@gmail.com
The Bobbin	Stelios Comninos	082 574 3722	stelios.comninos@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and payable. At the AGM the subscription was raised marginally. Subscriptions are now as follows

Joining Fee	R220 senior R120 Junior
Senior Member	R240
Junior Member	R140
Family Member	R240 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member

Cash will only be accepted by Dave Smith at meetings of the DFT. All other payment to be made by EFT into the club bank account. No direct cash deposits.

Bank details

Bank: Standard Bank, Westville

Branch Code: 045 426. Account #: 053 189 647

Note: If you pay by EFT, please e-mail Dave Smith

smiffam@absamail.co.za with your proof of payment stating the type of members and the member(s) names.

QUICK LINKS

DURBAN SHOPS THAT STOCK FLY TYING MATERIAL

The Complete Angler	Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof, 3610, Tel 031 764 1488 <i>Superb freshwater selection of fly tying materials. Salty stuff too</i>
Kingfisher	http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shop.php <i>A wide selection of fly tying materials balanced more towards the salt</i>
The Fish Eagle	105 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal https://www.facebook.com/THEFISHEAGLE <i>Jan Korrubel runs this shop. Say no more!!!</i>

SOUTH AFRICAN ONLINE SHOPS

Frontier Fly Fishing	http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za Situated at Coachman's Crossing, Centre, Peter Place, Bryanston, and Johannesburg.
Netbooks	http://www.netbooks.co.za The Home of Craig Thom
Stream X	http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za
The African Fly Fisher	http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za

KZN FLY FISHING GUIDES/CASTING INSTRUCTORS

Jan Korrubel	083 99 33 870 jlkorubel@gmail.com jan@wildfly.co.za Small streams and custom fly tying, casting
Grevin Price	082 896 3688 grevin@wildfly.co.za River and still water (including yellowfish)
Juan-Pierre Rossouw	076 208 5602 juan@wildfly.co.za River and still water (including yellowfish)
Leon Vermeulen	082 442 4846 / leon@wildbrowns.co.za River fishing
Graham McCall	793 033 735 Casting Instructor
David Weaver	083 303 4230 / eff@ohs.dorea.co.za All things about Sterkfontein: local knowledge, boat and or accommodation.
Jeremy Rochester	083 607 6100 Casting Instructor

KZN FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

The Fly Fishers Association (FFA)	flyfishersassociation@gmail.com
The KZN Fly Fishing Association (KZNFFA)	http://www.kznffa.org/public/index.asp?pageid=847
The Natal Fly Fishing Club	http://www.nffc.co.za
FOSAF	http://www.fosaf.org.za
The Underberg and Himeville Trout Club (UHTFC)	http://www.uhtfc.co.za
Wildfly	http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=282&Itemid=451

WEATHER AND TIDES

Wind guru	http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php?sc=4865
Real time Durban wind (esp. for Harbour)	http://fred.csir.co.za/windnet
Overall fishing conditions including tides and weather	http://www.tides4fishing.com/af/south-africa/durban

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HONEY

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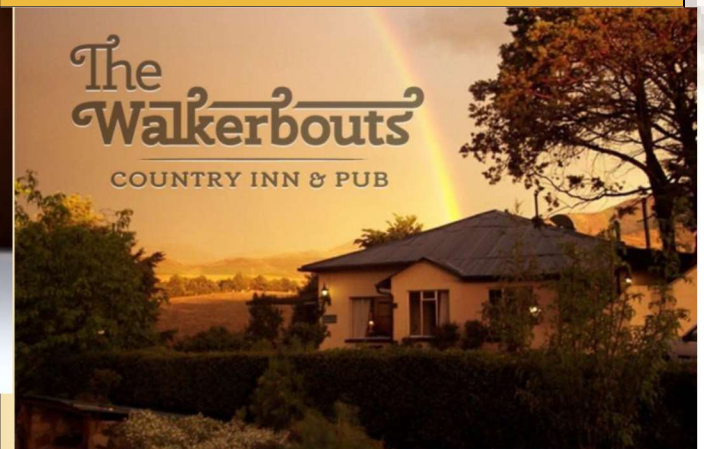
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