

THE BOBBIN

The newsletter of the

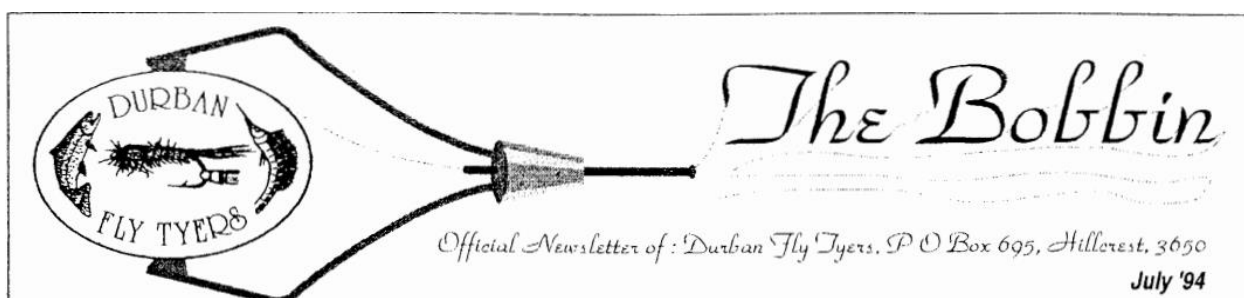
Durban Fly Tyers



www.durbanflytyers.co.za

July 2015

The 21st Anniversary Edition



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Next Meeting

Visitors and beginners are welcome.

Date	6 July 2015
Venue	Room G1 Westville Library
Time	7pm for 7.30pm
Tie	Salt Water
Tyer	Bradley Wienand
Pattern	Semperfly
Special Instructions	Bring Black or Olive Thread

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

A big thank you to Peter Brigg for sharing his Pete's Hopper with us last month. A relatively simple tie but it looks very effective. If anyone has tied and used one lately please let us have some feedback. Congratulations to Paul Liesegang and Kyle Hammond on winning the tie that evening.

For the July meet we have Bradley Wienand coming to show us his version of a Semper. This is a salt water fly originated by Bob Popovics that has been extremely successful all around the world. This fly was tied a few years ago at a DFT meeting, but Brad assures me his one has a few twists and turns to make it even deadlier.



This month our trusty newsletter The Bobbin, celebrates its 21st anniversary. Ian Cox has promised us a cracker edition, so I look forward to having a peek at it. We have at long last had a committee meeting to sort out club business till the December meeting. This includes fly tyers for each month as well as relative outings. We have planned a raffle to take place at the August meeting and we have started collecting quite a lot of great stuff. Start hiding away a few bucks to flit away on the evening.

I know we've been down this road before but I ask in fact beg you to write up some articles for the Bobbin. We seem to get very little feedback from members as to trips and flies used etc. It also makes life a tad easier for Ian to fill the pages.

I would like some feedback also on the subject of branded apparel. I'm thinking along the line of caps and or shirts. If you are interested we can get in some samples so an order can be made up. Please think about it so I can get some feedback at the meeting.

A reminder that subs are due as of 1st May each year so please sort out with Dave Smith at the meeting or EFT the funds. The amounts are senior R 170-00 and junior R 90-00. Please can we get this sorted out as soon as possible.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the 21st edition of the Bobbin. Yup July 1994 saw founding Editor Sudesh Persadh produce what was then a 4 page pamphlet. Produced on an Apple Mac, the bobbin was then printed on A3 paper which was then folded to produce said booklet. E mail was in its infancy. Indeed the desktop publishing software that Sudesh used was still pretty revolutionary back then.



Though the production of the Bobbin was revolutionary it took a lot longer for its distribution to catch up with technology. Distribution only went electronic in June 2002 and it took another year before the current Pdf format was adopted. One cannot understate the massive saving in time, cost and effort that this change meant. The club was pretty big back in 1994. One edition of the Bobbin back in 1995 complained that only 58 members pitched at a meeting. We do about half that today and all we do to get a Bobbin out is to click a mouse. So hats off to those early editors who had to resort to snail mail.

I would have loved to have provided a full history of the Bobbin but regretfully the record is somewhat patchy. I have been unable to obtain past copies of the Bobbin for the periods October 1997 to May 2002 and for the period June 2005 to December 2006 despite diligent enquiry over many years.

What emerges is a story of highs and lows that reflect fairly accurately the highs and lows of the club. The central truth is that members are guaranteed to get a good dividend on what they put into the Durban Fly Tyers but you have to put something in to get something out. And that means more than paying subs. Please don't get me wrong. This is not a criticism or an exhortation to do more for the club. After all we belong to the Durban Fly Tyers because it is fun. If it stops being fun then membership becomes a chore. I have never seen the success of the club in terms of numbers. Indeed the Bobbin suggests that too big a club becomes a problem as the burden of managing robs the committee of the fun of membership. Too much success thus undermines the leadership that is essential to keep the club afloat.

What is clear from a reading of past editions of the Bobbin is that passion counts a lot.

- The club has thrived under the leadership of chairman such as Kevin Cole and Jay Smit who seems to have been able to inspire passion in others.
- There is also a direct return on effort. So the passion displayed in those early years by Sudesh Persadh and his successor as Editor Russel Coote paid dividends in terms of the overall success of the club. It also would also be remiss of me not to mention Alan Jellis who took over as editor of the Bobbin in June 2007 and built the foundations of what is the publication today.
- It is also abundantly clear that editors cannot make bricks without straw. Thus the support given by regular contributors such as Kevin Cole, Alan O Connor and Jack Blackman also added enormously to the success of the Bobbin and thus the club. Likewise it would be remiss of me not to mention the golden threads that run through the history of the Bobbin that are the contributions by Laurence Davies and Graeme Neary. I don't think anyone else has contributed as consistently over a sustained period as these two gentlemen.

I also think that it is clear that although the club has come a bit off the boil of late, it is still in basically good shape. All that is needed to bring it back up to speed is for members to get a bit more involved. Graeme has brought a lot of energy to the club since he has become chairman. It is time for the rest of us to feed that fire with contributions of our own.

IT'S A GIGGLE

It came as a shock to learn how recent this section of the Bobbin is. Indeed if you had asked me I would have said that it had been around for years and years. The truth is it seems to be the brainchild of our illustrious chairman Graham Neary who in September 2009 submitted the following piece under the title "Just For Laughs". That was of course when the Bobbin was edited by Alan Jellis.

Here is Graeme's first submission

Tom and his buddies were hanging out and planning an upcoming fishing trip. Unfortunately, he had to tell them that he couldn't go this time because his wife wouldn't let him. After a lot of teasing and name calling, Tom headed home frustrated. The following week when Tom's buddies arrived at the River to set up camp, they were shocked to see Tom. He was already sitting at the campground with a cold beer, sleeping bag rolled out, rod in hand, and a camp fire glowing.

"How did you talk your wife into letting you come fishing, Tom?"

"I didn't have to," Tom replied. "Last week when I left our meeting, I went home and slumped down in my chair with a beer to drown my sorrows. Then the wife snuck up behind me and covered my eyes and said, 'Surprise' When I peeled her hands back she was standing there in a beautiful see-through negligee and she said, ' Carry me into the bedroom and tie me to the bed and you can do whatever you want'.....

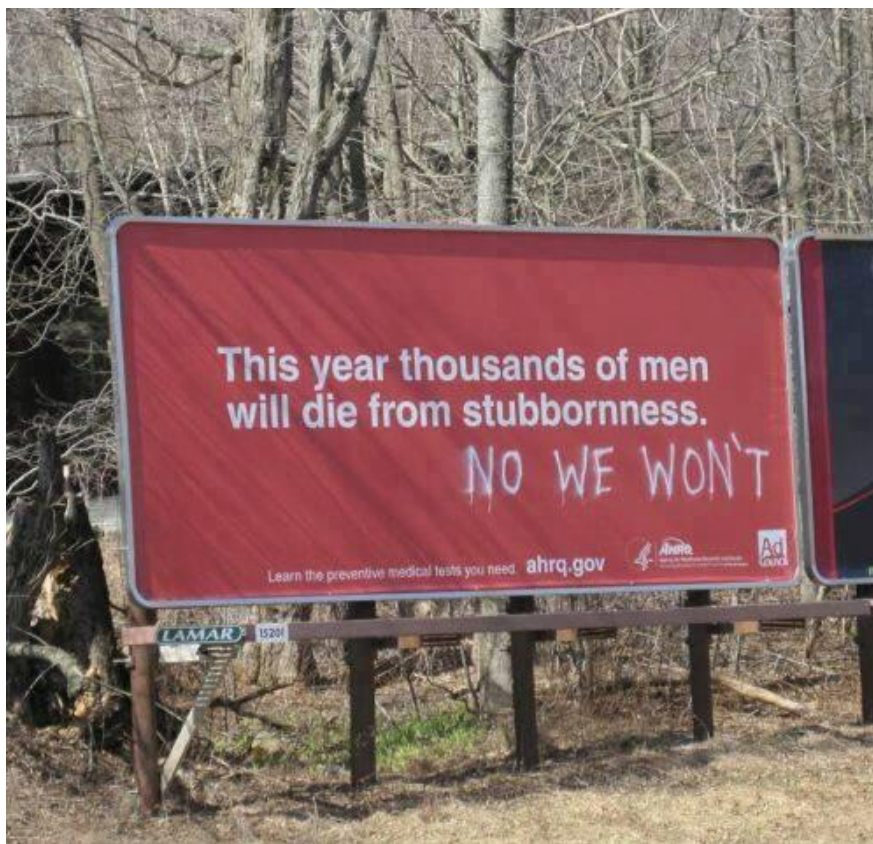
SO HERE I AM!"

That Morphed into "IT'S A GIGGLE" which I would have sworn was an Alan Jellis invention. Turns out it was mine. Yup it's a giggle reprised in June 2013 which was my first edition of the Bobbin as editor. This was my first offering.

Trout Bum

- If you missed the birth of your first child or grandchild because it coincided with a fishing trip, you might be a trout bum. (Steve this is you!)
- If you think that you can save money by tying your own flies, you might be a trout bum.
- If you can identify every insect a fish might eat by its Latin name but can't remember your children's birthdays, you might be a trout bum. (Laurence?)
- If the only time anyone has seen you cry was when you broke the tip on your bamboo rod, you might be a trout bum.

I have always found the humour side of the Bobbin a challenge. Not that it lacks for contributions. Indeed if only the flow of good humour was matched by contributions on fly tying my job and that of my predecessors would have been a breeze. The trouble is the humour matches the demographics of the club. Male and over 40 or is it 50 and that humour tends to be a tad predictable not to mention offensive to women. Editorial discretion is advised.



FLY TYING AND OTHER TIPS

[Beginners Corner](#)

beginners CORNER

Tying One On!

Put your hook into the vice. If it's smaller than size 12, consult your ophthalmologist beforehand. Now wind on the incredibly fine thread all up and down the hook. After you've accidentally broken the incredibly fine thread, start over.

You are now ready to tie on the tail. Take a hackle feather, tear off about 15 hackle points, and tie them on. Make sure the tail is sticking straight out. Having performed this procedure, get out some dubbing wax and rub a little gob of it between your thumb and forefinger. *Warning: It's pretty gross.* Now get some rabbit fur or some of that synthetic stuff gleaned from carpet remnants and kind of rap it around the thread that

should be hanging down. It isn't? Hmmm.

Anyway, you are now ready to tie on the wings. This is a real pain, particularly if you're trying to tie on duck feathers. You have to make them stand up just so, and one always seems to wind up on the bottom of the hook. Keep the glue off it. *Oops, nice move.*

Now that you've welded the wings together, it's time to tie on the hackle. Tie the hackle feather just ahead of the welded wings, and then wrap it around the shank of the hook. Take the end of the feather and tie it off. The artistic part comes into play here. Tie off the head. Put a glob of black glue on it. I said, you wanted to avoid breaking the barb off the hook. *Gee. You'll have to start over again.*

1995 edition, the issues raised in this column were addressed comprehensively in the meeting. These days the need for such a column is even more problematic as the internet provides such a wealth of superbly produced instructional videos on how to do just about anything. These articles are nonetheless still useful and can be accessed on line by clicking [here](#).

Jack Blackman

Kevin Cole reminded members who attended the 2015 AGM that the DFT started in protest against the Natal Fly Dresser's Guild refusing Jack Blackman Life membership. So he and his mates started the DFT and promptly made Jack Blackman its first life members and honorary vice chairman. Jack of course was one of KZN's fishing legends. Very few fly fishers of my vintage didn't have a Jack Blackman story to tell. He helped me as a teenager and introduced me to the mysteries of tying a Walkers Killer. His death left a void in KZN fly fishing that took many years to fill. The DFT is fortunate therefor that we can reproduce his contributions to the Bobbin which you can access by clicking [here](#).

Jackie's Corner



Jackie's Corner

Trout Treat

Serves 2

Prep. time: 25min

Cook. time: 15min

2 small smoked trout

1 Tbsp flour

1/4 cup chicken or fish stock
(made from a cube)

1 Tbsp strong grated cheese

4 cups cooked rice (kept hot)

25g butter

1/2 cup milk

black pepper

2 tsp sherry

1 tin asparagus tips (kept warm)

Flake trout into large pieces. Melt butter in pan and add flour, stirring for a minute. Gradually blend in stock and milk, and season with pepper. Boil for 5 min, stirring to prevent sticking. Blend in cheese and sherry, add fish and warm through.

Serving: Pile hot rice in centre of each plate, make a well in rice and fill with mixture. Surround with asparagus.

Jackie, who Laurence Davies tells me is Jackie Cole was also an inaugural contributor to the Bobbin. Her recipes were a feature of each Bobbin through 1994 and 1995. Laurence Davies often reminds me of Jackie's Corner and what a good idea it would be to resurrect it. I agree. All I am waiting for is a volunteer to produce the articles. You can access Jackie's contributions by clicking [here](#).

"If fishing is like religion, then flyfishing is high church." - Tom Brokaw

REPORTS

[Cape Vidal](#)

Vidal... Here we come

The annual, sometimes biannual, Cape Vidal trips in many ways anchor the outing side of the club. It is not surprising therefore that one finds a lot on Vidal in the Bobbin. However the real gems, the stuff that has the how to as opposed to did what are to be found in the earlier editions. Here are two from back in the 90's to whet your appetite. Click [here](#) for more.

Fishing adventures



Some trips were a little more adventurous. Click [here](#) for a trip Mark Bowen and friends did in the to the Cathedral peak area in June 2003. Reports ran a little longer in those days than they do today. But even so who can begrudge Dave Smith for telling us all about his trip to Mozambique in 2008. For the story about that sailfish click [here](#). And forgive me for including my fist article in the Bobbin and regarding what I believe was the first club trip to Sterkfontein. Click [here](#) to read on. It is interesting to compare this with Laurence Davies latest article on being a Sterkies Virgin. Click [here](#) for that article.

ARTICLES

Articles have always been a thing in the Bobbin but it must be said have improved considerably since the advent of digital photography. The great thing about these articles is their variety. Here is a couple to remind you of days gone by.

[Laurence Davies](#)

Laurence Davies is an institution. He is also a born teacher and a mine of information which if it were not for his propensity to write things down might have disappeared. Laurence has contributed to the Bobbin for many years. A collection of these writings can be read by clicking [here](#).

[On Bruce Curries 50th](#)

Bruce turned 50 in 2008. Members had a lot to say about it then. They still talk about it now. Click [here](#) for more.

[Dr Steven Brooks](#)

Stevie is a scientist so anything he writes is always worth reading. Click [here](#) for a few of his gems:

[Too much Cox?](#)

I have contributed a lot of articles to the Bobbin. Such is the fate of an editor in need of product. You know how to shut me up. Give me more of your stuff and I'll write less of mine. In the meantime here are a few for those who may have missed them the first time. Abandon all hope those who click [here](#)!

CLUB STUFF

DFT Committee

A number of members have asked that these details be published in the Bobbin. All we ask is that any communication via email be kept to that of fly fishing and club matters.

Chairman	Graeme Neary	083 232 2837	gneary@telkomsa.net
Secretary	Stelios Comninos	083 232 2837	stelios.comninos@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	smiffam@absamail.co.za
IT	Warren Prior	083 348 9790	warren@bahaflyfishing.co.za
Outings	The Committee		
Entertainment	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	Bruce.Curry@altech-multimedia.com
Editor	Ian Cox	082 574 3722	iancox@coxattorneys.co.za

Forthcoming Attractions

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser	Status
TBA in June	Scalies	Umkomaas	I Cox	Booking Open

FOR SALE

If any club member would like advertise some fly tying or fishing kit for sale or is looking for said kit, please contact iancox@coxattorneys.co.za

Durban Fly Tyers Shirts

BLUE shirts & BLUE hat @ R200.00 for both
Contact Dave Smith



Kyle Hammond Jack Blackman trophy winner 2015 - A Glimpse of the Future?

ADVERTISEMENTS

These are free for club members. A modest advertising charged is levied in respect of advertisements placed by non-members. Contact Dave Smith For details.

dave@durbanflytyers.co.za



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Russell Henwood

Cell: 082 809 2592

Email: russhenwood@gmail.com

QUICK LINKS		
Name	Address	Comments
Durban Shops That stock Fly Tying Material		
The Complete Angler	Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof,3610 Tel 031 764 1488	Superb freshwater selection of fly tying materials. Salty stuff too
Kingfisher	http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shop.php	A wide selection of fly tying materials balanced more towards the salt.
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 Check him out at the Ufudu Fair.
Stream X	http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za/	
The African Fly Fisher	http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za/	Morne Bayman's new shop
KZN Fly Fishing Guides		
Jan Korrubel	083 99 33 870 jlkorrubel@gmail.com jan@wildfly.co.za	small streams and custom fly tying
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
KZN Fly Casting Instructors		
All the fishing guides listed above also give casting instruction.		
Graham McCall	079 303 3735	
Jeremy Rotchester	083 607 6100	
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/	
South Coast Fly Fishers		
The Underberg and Himeville Trout Club	http://www.uhtfc.co.za/	
Wildfly	http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=282&Itemid=451	
Tides Charts		
Durban	http://www.swell.co.za/durban/tides	Gives you a surf report too.
Weather		
Durban	http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php?sc=4865	