

# THE BOBBIN

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MAY 2019

## CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

As we head toward our AGM in a few days' time I would ask each of you to think about what direction the Club wishes to go. The current committee of Stelios, Terry Andrews, Dave Smith, Bruce Curry have done a splendid job, often in difficult times while juggling their day jobs to not only keep the Club going but to find monthly tiers, get out a Bobbin, as well as the important Secretarial and Treasury duties.

As I write this I am uncertain as to whom will make themselves available for reelection. What is clear to me is that we need some turnover on the committee, with that brings new ideas and renewed energy. If you would like to be a part of the team guiding where the Durban Flytyers is heading then we would welcome you aboard. Think about it.

Subscriptions are going to become due after the AGM and I'd like to remind members that the FOSAF club membership scheme allows you to join FOSAF via the club for R150 rather the R300 direct membership route. It is voluntary and we resolved not to make it compulsory as several other clubs have done. If you have paid via another club then there is no need to pay twice.

FOSAF have been working hard behind the scenes although sometimes it isn't apparent. Having attended the National FOSAF EXCO this last weekend I can report back that it was an issue that FOSAF is going to address in the future.

Till next time.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Once again we have a Brief Bobbin! In this issue Andrew Gove tells us how to tie his Ginger Fey fly and Graeme Neary writes about his trip to Thrift Dam where the big trout seem to lurk! In contrast, I have written a brief article on catching small stockies in a very tame situation.

The "Brevity of the Bobbin" can be attributed to the lack of sufficient club member generated content – something I whine about every edition and on the WhatsApp group. It has been a year since Ian Cox resigned from the club and as Bobbin editor – and, as he pointed in his valedictory message to us in the June 2018 Bobbin: *"....club members do not really care enough to put the cement into the mix that is required to maintain the integrity of the club....The bulk of club members just do not care enough to make an effort. What is more, they resent attempts to try and make them give that support."* Nothing much has changed since then.

It is my humble opinion the past year has shown that the Bobbin serves a very negligible community building and cohesion function within the club. It is anyway an outdated form of communication in the modern era and we need to revise how we as members relate and communicate. I think that we use the WhatsApp group to communicate and share interesting information - so come to the AGM and state your opinion on the matter.



### NEXT MEETING

**6 May 2019 /19.00 for 19.30/ Room G1 Westville Library**

The next meeting will be our **Annual General Meeting**. The current committee has some pertinent issues to discuss regarding the club, its operation and its future. Please make sure that you attend, engage with the issues and be ready to step up for nomination to the committee.

**Your club needs you!**

## APRIL TIE OF THE MONTH: GINGER FEY BY ANDREW GOVE:

### MATERIALS

**Hook:** Long shank nymph

**Body:** Ginger dubbing

**Rib:** Copper wire

**Hackle:** Ginger hen hackle

**Spine:** Ginger cock hackle

*(Ginger colour can be substituted for any other colour)*

### TYING STEPS

**Step 1:** Tie in rib at bend of hook

**Step 2:** Build up dubbing body

**Step 3:** Tie in spine 2x cock hackle tied matuka style

**Step 4:** Run wire rib up body to head securing hackle spine to body

**Step 5:** Wrap hen hackle behind eye of hook to form front hackle

**Step 6:** Whip finish

### HOW TO FISH

Dam fly, imitates fish fry, I like to fish with a floating line and longish leader. Pull it over channels and weed beds. Can also use sinking line and retrieve slowly along bottom I have not fished it in river but am looking to trying





## THRIFT DAM: GRAEME NEARY

I was very fortunate to be able to fulfil a bucket list item in April this year. I received an invite to join a group of guys going down to Thrift in the Eastern Cape. Some of the guys were going for their sixth and seventh trip with me the newbie on his first. This started about a month of preparation of tackle as well as tying of flies not to mention preparing myself. A bit daunting when the directive is large flies in the region of #4 and 6. Last year a lot of 8 and 9 pounders were landed as well as a 14 pounder.

A pretty long journey lay ahead, in the region of 8 ½ hours, with the last 40 kms being pretty poor dirt road. Weather was good and we could not fault the condition of the roads except for the last 10 kms or so of tar outside Tarkastad before the dirt. It was a case of which pothole to hit than miss. A bit of a disappointment for me was to see the state of the towns in the region compared to what they looked like when I worked in the area as a much younger man in the early 70's. We arrived at about 2.30 settled in and got out on the water. Although the dam was very low at 30 %, the water was clean and at 15 degrees. Very big banks of weed to paddle through before getting to open water but good to fish back toward the weeds.

The fish were all very strong and in excellent condition. Their menu here is leeches and minnows and I think that is what keeps them in heavy weight form. The minnows are between 20 mm and 60 mm. Fish were predominantly taken on Zonker, Woolly Bugger type and Minnie patterns. At times the fish would only take small patterns and then flash backs worked a treat.

A word of advice is that if you want to get around this piece of water properly, a good weapon to have in your arsenal is a pontoon boat with a sneaker motor. Although it hasn't been full for a few years but word has it that when 100% the dam measures 2km long. Another thing to remember is that the wind knows how to blow here and seems to work out when you are at the other end.

The accommodations are quite basic to say the least and cost R150 pppn. No luxury at all and pretty little comfort either. A disappointment was that the gentleman who was supposed to see that the water tank out the bank should be filled, failed to show his face at all. This tank supplies the toilet and shower so needless to say no one was able to shower for the six days. No not lekker. Even if there had been water a hot shower was out of the question as the gas heater was all but hanging off the wall. We were at least able to fill the loo with water carried up from the dam in bottles. The other side of this is that the fishing per day is R 350 pp.

At the end of it all we had a really great time. The company was out of the top drawer. Looking at the flies these men tie really inspired me to spend more time and effort tying fresh water flies for the next while. Seven anglers over six days landed 255 fish. All rainbows and in really good condition and vibrant colours on all. The bigger fish were in the region of 7ish pounds with the smallest about 1.5 pounds. Would I go back? You bet, I have already been asked to join them next year about the same time.





## TAKING STOCKIES IN STILL WATER: STELIOS COMNINOS

I like rivers and only really (rarely?) fish still waters when there are no other available options. Like the past few days when I found myself in a B&B at Currys Post booked by my daughter - and where the closest fishing was two recently stocked dams on the property.

On the evening of our arrival, and without too much fuss, my son-in-law and I set out to try our luck. We had about an hour of enough light to fish. We looked at the first dam, it was windless and the water was so clear that the (pretty shallow) bottom was visible for as far as we could see - and no fish rising. After a few casts we had no takes - and saw no fish activity. So we moved on to the larger dam.



This dam was a lot deeper and, because of the recent rains, it was a tad murky. We fished at the wall which was bordered on the one side by a heavily wooded ridge. This looked like the deepest side on the dam - and there were many rises in the long late afternoon shadows. I decided that, because the fish were rising all around, I would fish a floating line and a DDD. I cast into the rises and almost each time latched on to a fish. I landed 4 fish. As the light faded and I became bored with the lack of any real challenge, I stopped fishing and watched my son-in-law fishing an intermediate line with bead head woolly buggers and zonkers. He caught about 5 fish in the 20 or so minutes of available light before it was a little too dark to carry on.

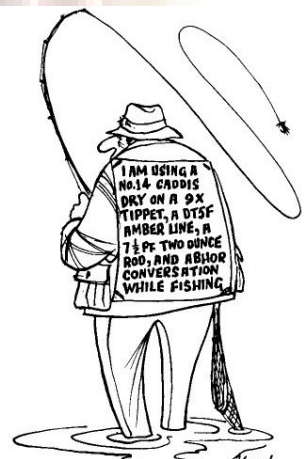
The next evening we returned to the same spot and my son-in-law resumed fishing woollies and zonkers - landing 8 or more fish. I decided to again fish a dry, but resolved to change fly each time I caught a fish - just to be otherwise - and to assess whether some of those silly flies I had tied would fool the fish! I ended up catching over 10 fish on about 8 different flies - some of which I would never have thought could have fooled a fish.....but then again, these were stockies!

The fish were generally all the same size, and in reasonable condition - except for one strangely coloured and shaped googley eyed one - which must have been a be a hatchery frankenfish aberration!

Despite the number of fish caught in a short time, standing on one place, I decided that catching stockies lacks any kind of challenge. Give me a river of wily wild browns any day!



"Yes, we stock tape measures. Do you want the angler's model or the accurate?"



## DURBAN FLY TYERS COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	Andrew Mather	083 3090233	andrewmather@telkomsa.net
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Stelios Comninos	083 255 3334	stelios.comninos@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	smiffam@absamail.co.za
<b>Secretarial and entertainment</b>	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	Bruce.curry.too@gmail.com
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	Terry Andrews	083 2519264	81tbone@gmail.com
<b>The Bobbin</b>	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

<b>Joining Fee</b>	R220 senior R120 Junior
<b>Senior Member</b>	R240
<b>Junior Member</b>	R140
<b>Family Member</b>	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	<a href="http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shopphp">http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shopphp</a> <i>A wide selection of fly tying materials balanced more towards the salt</i>
The Fish Eagle	105 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal <a href="https://www.facebook.com/THETFISHEAGLE">https://www.facebook.com/THETFISHEAGLE</a>

### SOUTH AFRICAN ONLINE SHOPS

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

### KZN FLY FISHING GUIDES/CASTING INSTRUCTORS

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

### KZN FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

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



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