

THE BOBBIN

The newsletter of the



www.durbanflytyers.co.za

October 2015



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Next Meeting

Visitors and beginners are welcome.

Date	5 October 2015
Venue	Room G1 Westville Library
Time	7pm for 7.30pm
Tie	Freswater
Tyer	Marco Breschi
Pattern	Swimming Frog
Special Instructions	Small brass bead chain, superglue, black permanent marker and white thread (UV resin and torch if you have)

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

I think most of our things to do lists get longer as the completed list shrinks, and I'm sure this goes for fishing and tying as well.

Again I can't report on any fishing as I have not done any recently, but hoping that will change soon. I am looking forward to a bass outing in the Eston area early in October and Cape Vidal in November. From reports I have heard, Vidal is not as sanded up as it has been for a while so here's hoping we have a good trip.

I am very fortunate to have received an invite to the book launch on 21st September for Andrew Fowler's book called STIPPLED BEAUTIES which should be on the shelves shortly. A friend at the launch who also wrote the foreword and has seen a lot of the manuscript, says it is a must on the Christmas list.

This month Marco Breschi is tying a bass fly he calls a swimming frog. He told me he does not want to tie anything with deer hair as this has been done too many times before. For this you will need to bring a short length of small brass bead chain and olive thread. The rest will be supplied as usual.

Once again I am begging, PLEASE let us have some articles of trips done and also consider membership of FOSAF. It is a good cause.



FROM THE EDITOR

It is hard to believe that the year is nearly over. Can you believe it but we only have two more ties until Christmas. And here I was thinking that the year had just begun.

Laurence has written a cracker of an article entitled a jerk at one end. In it he talks about a subject that has always interested me, namely the tendency we all have to fish with what worked last time. I am interested because we claim superiority over other species on account of our consciousness but in truth we spend most of our lives behaving like slightly more intelligent versions of the animals we look down on! For more on man as an empirical fisher follow the link I have posted in Stelios 'column to the excellent article by the late [Gary la Fontaine](#).



IT'S A GIGGLE

Sucker fishing

A little boy was sitting on the pavement fishing into a bucket. Along came the vicar and took pity on the wee soul and gave him some money. "How many have you caught today young man?" he asked as he patted him on the head. "You're the fourth today," he replied

You might be a trout bum

I have heard the term "trout bum" bandied about quite a bit. Heck on occasion, I have even been called one. However, I am not sure that I know exactly what one is. I took it upon myself to investigate this term. I read the very insightful book by John Gierach on the subject. I travelled to the various places where trout bums congregate. I went fishing on the Madison, the Deschutes, the Henry's Fork, the Green, the San Juan, the Yellow Stone and every other trout stream where I thought I might learn something useful on the subject. I

attended National Conclaves, Southern Conclaves, Sow Bug Roundups, and the "Home Waters" Expo. I visited lodges, fly shops, bars and fishing cabins. I have talked to countless anglers. Sadly, I am unable to find a succinct definition. What I was able to identify from all of this learned research is that there are certain indicative behaviours that can predict whether you are a trout bum. The more of these that you exhibit the more likely it is that you are one. I have listed a few of these indicators below.

- If your cat is named Winston and your dog is called Lefty, you might be a trout bum.
- If your family had to eat Christmas dinner on TV trays because your dining room table is set aside for fly tying, you might be a trout bum.
- If you missed the birth of your first child because it coincided with the start of the sulphur fly hatch, you might be a trout bum.
- If your fly tying vice cost more than your automobile, you might be a trout bum.
- If one or more of your children were conceived on the back seat of a drift boat during a lull in the salmon fly hatch, you might be a trout bum.
- If your wedding reception was held in a fly shop, you might be a trout bum.
- If your wife wants to do something romantic on your anniversary and you take her night fishing, you might be a trout bum.
- If she thinks you finally hit a home run with that idea, she might be a trout bum.
- If you have ever worn a fishing shirt to a funeral, you might be a trout bum.
- If Wapsi or Orvis makes more than three deliveries a week to your home, you might be a trout bum.
- If you can identify every insect you encounter on the river with its complete scientific name (in Latin) but can't remember your children's names, you might be a trout bum.
- 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.
- If your greatest fear in life is that when you die your wife will sell your fishing tackle for what you told her you paid for it, you might be a trout bum.
- If you honestly believe that you can save money by tying your own flies, you might be a trout bum.
- If you own more fly boxes (all completely filled with flies) than your wife has pairs of shoes, you might be a trout bum.

This list is by no means complete. I would not be concerned unless I exhibited more than five indicators.

Fishing rules

Fishing rule #1: The least experienced fisherman always catches the biggest fish.

Fishing rule #2: The worse your line is tangled, the better is the fishing around you.

Fishing rule #3: Fishing will do a lot for a man but it won't make him truthful.

FLY TYING AND OTHER TIPS

About Fly Tying South Africa



I think it is safe to say that social media has revolutionized fly tying. Indeed the fact of this revolution is often brought up at DFT meetings when it comes time to discuss membership. So forgive me fellow committee members for using the pages of this club newsletter to tell of another social media site that that is worth following. I am talking about [Fly Tying South Africa](#). Started fairly recently by Capetonian S.J. Roberts, the site stages a monthly fly tying competition that is adjudicated by Gordon van Der Spuy. It is proving a lot of fun with this month being all about classic wet flies. What makes this format particularly useful is that Gordon will from time to time drop a helpful hint on how to do it right. There is also the wonderful example that is the efforts of your fellow tyers, not to mention the learning curve that is examining your masterpiece online the morning after. I strongly recommend that you check this site out.

Whip Finishing



I have been fly tying since 1974 but still cannot whip finish by hand. I have used a Veniards whip finish tool which I was given in about 1976. It did not come with instructions and no one told me what it was for or how it work. It took me about a year to work that out but ever since then it has been a muck loved part of my fly fishing arsenal. Nowadays you can get all of this online like this excellent guide on how to whip finish by [Dick Talleur and David Klausmeyer](#) that was published in [MidCurrent](#).

On the Internet – MidCurrent

Stelios was not forthcoming this month so I started building this section up myself while putting this edition of the Bobbin together. It was only when I was tidying up that I say that all the contributions had come from [MidCurrent](#). So of course another contribution is born! MidCurrent is a truly excellent online fly fishing newspaper. I was amazed when I went into its pages how much of the stuff I have referred to over the years was published at some time or another By MidCurrent. It is a website seriously worth subscribing to.

- On the history of streamers <http://midcurrent.com/history/a-dreadful-scourge/>
- Gary La Fontaine On fishing Caddis <http://midcurrent.com/flies/anticipating-a-caddisfly-hatch/>

- The history of the Royal Coachman <http://midcurrent.com/flies/the-history-of-fly-fishing-in-fifty-flies-the-royal-coachman/>
- On whip finishing <http://midcurrent.com/flies/whip-finishing-whip-me/>

[Getting peacock herl right](#)

Ian Cox's interpretation a post by William Ensiferum



Peacock her and pheasant tail are probably the two most ubiquitous body materials out there. But how many of us stop to look at the stuff really closely? Did you, for example know, that peacock herl has a good side and one that is not so good or that the way you tie your herl will influence which side is uppermost and working best? I didn't until I happened across an intriguing post on the Facebook page [Fly Tying](#) . It carried a post by German fly tyer [William Ensiferum](#) who has interesting stuff to say, unfortunately in German. Google translate is not the greatest but loosely translated you get much better results if you tie your peacock herl so that the good side is uppermost. The good side is the one with the iridescent sheen to it. Click [here](#) for more.

ARTICLES

[A jerk at one end](#)

By Laurence Davies

I was reading an autobiography by Robert Hughes recently, titled "A Jerk at One End". It reminded me about a presentation given at a FFA meeting on fly fishing retrieves, short jerks and long jerks. The guest gave us all the options and finished up with the comment that your success in fly fishing depends on the "jerk" at one end. I could not for the life of me remember who the guest was, but his closing quip was re-awakened in me when I saw Robert Hughes book. Click [here](#) for more.

[The real reason why the DDD works?](#)

By Ian Cox

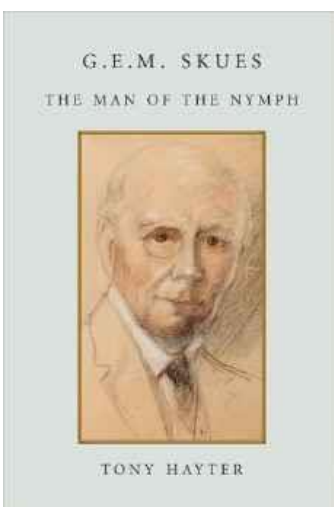


Having good friends is a joy. Having good friends with access to fly fishing water is a blessing. Words cannot inadequately describe what it is when that water happens to be what was known reverentially as Kimber's Old Dam. You see this water has not only been unbelievably good for the better part of a century it is also the birthplace of iconic flies such as the DDD (Duckworth Dargle Delight) and the red eyed damsel. Heatherdon is a very special place. Click [here](#) for more.

IN THE MARKET

All about Skues

By Ian Cox



I freely admit that I am a huge Skues fan. It is not just that nymphing is more my thing than dry fly fishing. If truth be told it is because I love taking the piss and George Skues was more skilful at taking the piss than most. After all who else could call a book that set the dry fly movement on its ass and through the sheer brilliance of his thinking built the foundations of modern fly fishing "Minor tactics of the chalk stream". George Skues did and though he took a lot of flak for it, he did prevail in the end. Oh did I mention that he is also an attorney (solicitor). You've got to love the guy. Historian Tony Hayter has done justice to this great man by producing an admirable biography of the man. The book is a tad pricey at R630.00 but with the collapsing rand, aren't all books getting expensive? I can tell you that if you like reading up on how things came to be in the world of fly fishing then is a book well worth the price. Tony Hayter also wrote "Halford the dry fly revolution" just over ten years ago so is well versed to write to both sides of the wet vs dry debate that is still raging (gently) nearly a century later.

CLUB STUFF

Subs for 2015/6 are due.

The new subs remained unchanged at:

Joining Fee	R190 senior R100 Junior
Senior Member	R170
Junior Member	R90
Family Member	R170 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member.

No Cash deposits. 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.

Bank details

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Westville

Branch Code: 045 426

Account Number: 053 189 647

Please advise e mail Dave Smith smiffam@absamail.co.za proof of payment stating the type of members and the member(s) names.

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	083 255 3334	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.too@gmail.com
Editor	Ian Cox	082 574 3722	iancox@coxattorneys.co.za
	Neill Van Rooyen	082 928 1654	neillvanrooyen@gmail.com

Forthcoming Attractions

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser	Status
November	Cape Vidal	Cape Vidal	G Neary	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

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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<http://www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za/>

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	