

THE BOBBIN

The newsletter of the



www.durbanflytyers.co.za

September 2013



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Next Meeting

Visitors and beginners are welcome.

Date	2 September 2013
Venue	Room G1 Westville Library
Time	7pm for 7.30pm
Tie	Salt Water
Tyer	Jay Smit
Pattern	Streamer but the point of the demo will to show you how to you're your own holographic eyes
Special Instructions	Bring whatever thread you normally use for tying saltwater patterns.

Science and biology often present as 'fact' concepts and categories based on assumptions that are contestable and often contradictory and then pose their solutions as 'ecological necessity'.

From Are Trout South African by Duncan Brown

The Monthly Tie

KAMBERG NYMPH

Demonstrated by

Mike Backhouse.



Demo tied by Mike Backhouse



Senior winner Allan Jellis and junior winner Christian Calliontzis

MATERIALS:

Hook:	TMC 9300 #10 or equivalent
Thread	3/0 tan or olive
Tail	Blood quill marabou olive together with a few Blood Quill marabou fibers in brown
Body	Same as for tail
Eyes	Tan chenille
Weight	7 to 14 turns of .010 lead wire

TYING:

Step 1:	Lay a thread base from the eye to the bend of the hook building up the thread at the bend to support the tail.
Step 2:	Tie in the chenille eyes figure of eight style leaving the tags attached to be used later.
Step 3:	Wind in 7 to 14 turns of lead wire starting directly behind the eyes wrapping towards the bend.
Step 4:	Tie in olive and brown blood quill marabou. The tail should be 1.5 length of the hook shank. Make sure that the tail is tied in behind the thread mounting at the bend of the hook so it stands up proud and tail wrap is largely avoided.
Step 5:	Twist and wrap the rest of the marabou fibers back to the eye of the hook. Pull hard on the thread as you tie off so that the fly does not become unwound during use.
Step 6:	You will find that there is a very small gap between the tie off point and the eyes which will be filled with dubbed olive and brown marabou fibers. The next move is to tie off between the chenille eyes and at the eye of the hook.
Step 7:	It is important to have a good quality pair of curved scissors as the tail needs be cut to shape of a dragon abdomen and also this helps further to avoid tail wrap.

The Chairman's Chirp

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to Mike Backhouse for tying the Kamberg Nymph for us at the last meeting. This famous Rob Karssing's fly will become a firm favourite in all our fly boxes from now on I'm sure.

Congratulations to our winning tiers, Alan Jellis in the senior section and to our junior Winner Christian Calliontzis



I would like to do a series of email Interviews with Club members for publishing in the Bobbin and will be sending a few questionnaire's out each month. Please back them up with as many fly fishing and tying pictures as possible as well as your tying station at home, even if it is a kitchen table. Also a picture of yourself tying which will be used as the banner for the article.



Our videos which we post on YouTube are lagging behind mainly because they take so long to edit. I know from experience that it can easily take up to 3 hours to properly edit and then post the clip. In an effort to simplify the editing I would like to appeal to tiers to have the materials and tools prepared and ready and specially to the members to not chirp the tier until after the tie is over. It is impossible to edit out the audio and still get the tiers commentary and all the necessary steps. I know this banter is traditional and I am also guilty of it. To not lose this spirit I will ask tiers to have a short break between stages for Q&A and chirping. To sum it up no chirping while the demonstrator is physically tying.

This last month I spent wrestling with another batch of Damasteel Jaws. What a battle, the steel ordered in February finally arrived at the end of June. Disaster, it was only faced on 2 sides. The strips are 550mm long and I don't have the facility to accurately size them. The machinist I got to do them for me botched the job and machined some of the steel undersize and not even at that. I

ended up making a special jig to hold the long strips while sizing and I did the job myself on their machine. Then because some of the material was 0.5mm undersize I had to make special compensation while machining each jaw. The end result was however well worth the effort. The one pictured is on its way to Canada.

I will be tying something salty at the next meeting so chirp all you like between stages.

See you all on the 4th September.

Cheers

Jay



There's only one sport that has more books written about it than fly fishing, and that's chess. It's the same reason for both sports. It's a mental game. It's the challenge of trying to catch fish. La Fontaine

From The Editor

Nothing from Peter Hayes this month. He tells me “tyd raak min” which translates into Australian as being “time poor”. But he says we will have something next month. I think I speak for all of us when I say how grateful we are for his contributions and how much we look forward to reading them.



Thanks Guys for the photographs. A real live saver and they are so much better than my efforts. Now if someone can show me how to mark them with the photographer's name.

This has been a sad month for Durban Fly Tyers starting as it did with the demise of stalwart founder member, gentleman and friend, Hayden Dakin. His obituary appears later in this but it would be remiss of me if I not recall that one of the things that makes fly fishing all that it is, is the fact that one gets to enjoy the company of the likes of Hayden. We will miss him.

While I am still in the dumps thinking about Hayden it would be as well to remind members that the gentle art of fly fishing for trout is living out its last in this country, condemned as it were to death row by its recent listing as an invasive species. I mentioned in the last Bobbin that this law had still to come into effect. Not so said [FOSAF](#) chairman Illan Lax. It is operational now. I checked and he is right. In fact, by jumping the gun, the Department of Water and Environmental affairs has created the crazy situation where you commit an offence if you don't practise catch and release. At least this is the situation until the regulations take effect at which time catch and release will also be a criminal offence. I have written on this at some length on Tom Sutcliffe's "[Spirit of Fly Fishing](#)". The article is also reproduced on the [Durban Fly Tyers](#) web site and am told will be published in the next edition of [Fly Fishing Magazine](#). Suffice to say that what you don't fight for will be taken away from you. And if we don't fight to save trout we will lose a lot more than the simple pleasure of fishing for them.



Jay's pal Pete Grey gives us a glimpse of the future.

You may find this hard to believe but every now and again I have a good idea and quite frequently this takes place in earshot of Gordon Van der Spuy. So it is was that my casual remark at the recent Ufudu Fair that Gordon and his fellow salmon fly dressers should tie a few to raise funds for the white rhino has resulted in Gordon's mission to save the rhino. This is what [Tom Sutcliffe](#) had to say in his 18 August newsletter.

Gordon has come up with a plan to raise funds to help save rhinos in Africa and has linked up with Mike Smit (<http://www.stoprhinopoaching.com/>) who has already raised R80 000. Essentially the project will involve a bid for one of his Jock Scott salmon flies and a collection of his dry flies and (hopefully) flies tied by many other leading tiers from around the world.

Tom has agreed to tie a few of his flies as have Hans Van Klinken and Leon Links. Nick Taransky from Australia is also on board Leonard Flemming and Peter Brigg have also chipped in along with local Salmon maestro Ruan Neethling. This thing is growing like topsy!

So I thought.....

Wouldn't it be a good idea if we all tied our absolutely favourite fly (that is in terms of the skill we bring to the tying of it) and make up a presentation box that can be put on auction along with the other contributions?

In Memory of Hayden Dakin



Hayden Dakin died of a heart attack on 3 August 2013 while fishing on Brewitts with his great friends, Graham Neary Bruce Curry and Pieter Liebetrau. Hayden was never one for fuss so gave instructions that there was to be no funeral or memorial service. But old friendship is celebrated in the memory of it, so it is fitting that Graeme and Bruce write of their memories of their old friend Hayden.

By Graeme Neary

To say a few words about Haydn is near impossible, it takes many. Ours was a great, open friendship enjoyed over many years. He enjoyed fishing the sea from a young age and was a very good rugby player in his younger days. Some of his loves in life, were life itself and having fun. Fly tying, fly fishing, building model sailing ships, keeping busy in his workshop, gardening and tending to his huge bonsai collection. Above all family was a priority to the end. A frequent visitor to Cape Vidal for many years, especially while they lived in Mtubatuba. He attended our DFT outings here until last year as he began battling with long beach walks and the very strong winds this area can produce around September each year. An outing for Haydn was just a phone call away, and about the only question he ever asked was "What time are we leaving?".

One of his all time favourites was the dam we call Brewitts, where we said farewell. It is a farm owned by John and Jill Brewitt and they have kindly rented the waters to the FFA for many years. Set in beautiful surroundings with open fields and forest plantations all round. An extremely peaceful place.

Haydn was like the wise old owl. He seemed to know lots about a lot of things and yet was never pushy in any way. Always ready with words of wisdom or advice and always open to others opinions. He seemed to attract teasing very easily and accepted it most graciously, but if the truth be known, he could give as good as he got.

Haydn and Meryl even took retirement really seriously. They retired to a complex in Howick where he could choose to fish any of four dams any day he felt like time on the water.

There are so many stories and anecdotes we remember him for, it would takes hours to relate them. To us as friends even though a good ten years our senior, Haydn was always very respectful, gentle, never angry, patient and always ethical in what he did. He will be missed around the water side and our club outings, but remembered fondly.

Rest in peace old friend and gentleman.

By Bruce Curry

We arrived at the home of Haydn and Meryl, to collect the man, en route to a day's fishing at Mt West. In order to maximise fishing time we had bypassed the "Wild Bean" at Hammersdale and invited ourselves to tea and coffee at the Daykin homestead.

When we arrived, he was standing at the entrance to their garage waiting for us. We alighted from the vehicle, and I walked over to him and gave him the obligatory clap to the back of the head: "What was that for?" asked Haydn. "Dunno, but you're bound to do something today to deserve it" said I.

Peter Liebetrau, next out of the vehicle, walked up to him, ignored his outstretched hand and gave Hayden a smack as well. "Hey" said the receiver. When Graeme walked around from the back of the bakkie, Haydn lowered his head and said "Your turn?" Needless to say, for that cheek, he got one.

But that was our friend in a nut shell, always ready to get spurred and just as ready to dish it out. Always one of the last onto get on the water. When we went fishing, he was a great "potterer". Normally, we would have already caught our first fish before he would be entering the water. That day, strangely, he had his boat pumped up long before we were ready, and then he stood watching us get ready, with a few derogatory and mischievous comments being handed out, as per usual.



[My last picture of Haydn, taken an hour before he stopped fishing with us](#)

We were in the water 20 minutes or so later, Haydn was the last on the water AGAIN, despite having his tube pumped up long before we were ready. The gang split out, "The Dung Beetle" headed to the top of the dam, I went to the far bank and was prospecting the weed banks, Graeme was cruising the dam wall and Haydn was sitting half-way between the banks, about 30 meters off the wall.

I had just caught the first fish of the morning, (a 9 inch stocky that did the nice splash, splash thing across the surface of the dam) when Graeme passed a comment "Hey, old man! Fishing is hard work, wake up!!" as he'd heard Haydn snoring briefly. Haydn had admitted to nodding off while fishing before, what with the warm sun on his face, tucked into his waders, protected from the cold. How many of us have done the same? But I digress, I had moved to towards the top of the dam when Graeme called out, "Hey Bruce, I think we have a problem here." I knew! I knew in my heart that something bad had happened and proceeded to kick back to the launch

area, where Graeme was standing and Haydn was still in his float tube. About 10 yards from them I turned and saw Haydn and knew from the colour of his face that he was dead.

After shedding waders and fins and the other accouchements of fishing, I grabbed the phone to call John Brewitt, our riparian owner, but he was out of the office and I could only leave a message. The rest was done in a blur, calling the ambulance, driving to guide them to the dam, talking to John and Jill as they had arrived at the dam after picking up the voice mail, packing up Haydn's stuff after the paramedics had removed the body, packing up our stuff and then driving home. Stopping at Haydn's and Meryl's home to pay our respects to the family. The next day, half way through the day...WHACK!!! I suddenly realised that my buddy was gone, no more teasing, no more gentleness, no more fishing. He was not coming home again.....

Haydn first cruised into my awareness at a DFTC meeting one evening when he was trying to get the club to tie patterns with some excess wool that he had acquired from his firm- OTH BIER who exported wool from SA. We discovered that we lived pretty close to each other and soon enough we started fishing together and taking turns lifting to the FFA and the DFTC meetings. I really got to know him well, when I started to attend DFTC outings especially the weekends at Cape Vidal.

That is where the trouble started, he fell into bad company. Neil Van Rooyen, Graeme Neary, Bruce Curry and Haydn would make the pilgrimage up to Vidal twice a year. His treat was to make a mutton stew for the first evening. Man! Believe me when I tell you his stew was lekker, especially after a long day's fishing, walking the beaches of Vidal, being sandblasted because of the beastly easterly. We fell upon the stuff, fought to have the right to clean the bowl with the bread afterwards. Then came the day he forgot the stew at home....then the teasing started in earnest.



In his element , on the beach at Vidal

Haydn spent the early part of his marriage to Meryl, living in Matubatuba, so every time we drove through the town , we would turn down the radio, open all the car windows and say " Listen Haydn , all those grandkids are calling your name" Grandpa,Grandpa....".

As a result of a mild stroke, he would often forget stuff, like the stew, but the one day, Neil got him good and proper. When we stopped for the customary breakfast at St Lucia Wimpy, Neil took the car keys and removed Haydn's reels from his bag and hid them in the car. When we got to Vidal, and were rigging up, we watched out of the corner of our eyes as Haydn started rigging up, only to stop, look through his tackle, search again, search again through a wider search area... Then he admitted failure "Oh no!" in a loud voice... I, by now, had to hide behind the car I was giggling so much." "What's up?" "Asked Neil, nonchalantly. I looked over the bonnet to see him clutching his forehead. I could imagine the mental gymnastics going on as he retraced his steps in the packing of his kit. I could see him mentally smacking himself on the forehead again and again, with the thought train "How can I be so stupid?" We re-assured him that we would lend him reels and that we'd cover for him, when Neil snuck his reels back in his tackle. He knew that he'd been had and laughed with us. That was Hayden, he didn't swear at us, as most of us would have done or call our parentage into disrepute, but joined in and took the joke like the true gentleman he was.

As time passed, he grew less confident on the bricks and could not walk as fast as us young ones, the teasing began again. We would tell him that if anything happened to him on the beach, we would drag his body back to the campsite but continue to fish all the way back, and should come across a good spot, we would leave him on the beach, for a while and continue fishing.

Once thing about Mr Daykin, he had an easy affability often we would come back to the car park to find him talking to or having a long chat to someone about fly fishing in the sea, complete strangers to. He really loved fly fishing and he really enjoyed our company, and I can easily say that my world is a little poorer and a lot lonelier knowing that I will not be fishing Brewitt's or Glen Afton with him again



The man at work

By the way, that disgusting hat of his is going to be consigned to the deep, in 2 weeks time when we are on the bricks at Vidal

After all these years, I still feel like a boy when I'm on a stream ----- Jimmy Carter

It's A Giggle

I was walking down the street when I was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked me for a couple of dollars for dinner. I took out my wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked:

"If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner? "No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.

"Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying food?" I asked. "No, I don't waste time fishing," the homeless man said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive."

"Will you spend this on hunting equipment?" I asked. "Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't gone hunting in 20 years!"

"Well," I said, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that?"

I replied, "Don't worry about that. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up drinking, fishing and hunting."



This year's winner of the prize for the best response to a ridiculous question from the press has got to be golfer Phil Mickelson after his recent victory in the Open.

A gushy reporter told him: "You are spectacular! Your name is synonymous with the game of golf! You really know your way around the course! What's your secret?"

Mickelson replied: "The holes are numbered."

1. ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.
2. BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.
3. CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
4. COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
5. DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.
6. EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.
7. HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.
8. INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
9. MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.
10. RAISIN: A grape with sunburn.
11. SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.
12. SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.
13. TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.
14. TOMORROW: One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.
15. YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

A small town Doctor was famous in the area for always catching large fish. One day while he was on one of his frequent fishing trips he got a call that a woman at a neighbouring farm was giving birth. He rushed to her aid and delivered a healthy baby boy. The farmer had nothing to weigh the baby with so the Doctor used his fishing scales. The baby weighed 22 lbs 10 oz.

Fly Tying And Other Tips

ODDS & SODS

by

Laurence Davies

The Velcro Effect

I read an interesting theory about how some flies hook more fish because of the “Velcro Effect”. The author said that a bushy fly, like the GRHE, is more likely to catch on the trout’s teeth, making it more difficult to eject. It stays in the mouth a bit longer, and might still be there when you eventually respond to the take.



Conquering your fear of submitting articles!!

Every editor, of every club that I have been a member of, has appealed time and again for articles. The problem is that, so many members don’t submit out of fear of criticism, be it of the subject, the grammar, or whatever.

This is more evident when you get the literary heavyweights (no pun intended) like Ian ([Wot about you Laurence? You are no lightweight yourself](#)), who you feel that you are “competing” against, and you believe that you can’t provide anything of the same cerebral depth. ([Dave Smith says that this means we talk too much](#))

OK so you might not be able to provide much in the way of new products or new techniques for those members who are virtually up to date with everything which appears in print or on the web, and here Ed Herbst comes to mind. But you forget that these people are in the minority and that there are many more members to whom much of what you want to write about is new. And even if it is **your** first exposure to a new product or technique, many of the members will be interested in what you have to say.

To me, Ian put my article on strike indicators into perspective, especially the new techniques which I wrote about. To the likes of Ian, Jay, Peter and a few others, some of what I wrote about was not new to them. But to many others it was new, and even to the fundis, they liked reading about my thoughts.

There are many of us who do things differently, especially in the tying or weighting of a particular fly. At our last meeting Marco showed how he adds a little weight to the Papa Roach, by using glass bead eyes, which are heavier than the plastic eyes that Herman Botes, the originator, recommends- and it works for him. Many of us have made adjustments to standard flies which also work for you. I would certainly be interested on your changes, or even thoughts on your tactics. Remember, if it works for you, it can’t be wrong.

There are many, many things which you can write about and which will be of interest to our members, and it need not be more than a paragraph or two.

Even questions to the editor could elicit further debate amongst the members and thus entice more into the fold.

[I could not agree more. And by the way Ed now demands that I send him special copies of Laurence’s articles for his database. Who knows you may be a fundi but not know it. So please bring me your articles. And I promise I won’t drop comments into them unless, like Laurence, you specifically ask that I do so.](#)

Plumbing water depths.

It is essential, when fishing both rivers and dams, to have some idea of the depth of water which you are fishing.

I was reminded of this on the weekend when Bruce, Graeme and I followed young Christian's advice and fished the drop off at Wilson's Wharf in Durban Bay this weekend. Bruce used his rod to try and get some idea of the position and depth of the drop off. Now I have been guilty of this before when fishing dams, until someone told me how many rods get broken this way (it might have been Roger Baert). I then took to carrying a length of string, tied to small sinker, in my fly jacket for measuring depths. The string is knotted every metre and works a treat for finding the channels.



You see your editor is not the only one who uses a fish finder.

Fish finders, or in many cases, depth finders, have been used by many anglers to locate the channels. And some of the fancier (and more expensive ones) will show fish and give you the temperature ranges with depth. A lot of people of course, think that this is unethical, but for me it is a case of "whatever blows your hair back". I don't use one because it takes a lot of fun out of trying to work out the hot spots oneself, and besides, it is another item to be carried on the tube. For some competitive anglers who want to get the edge on their companions, they might consider the fish finder, but they are banned in fly fishing festivals or competitions.

In rivers, I tend to use my wading staff for measuring depth.

Now, a spy told me that, when French champion Pascal Cognard, thrice world fly fishing champion, at his clinic, asked Ian Cox if he could borrow his rod to measure the depth of the river, Ian with cultured indignation said "What part of f*** off do you not understand", or words to that effect. Of course Ian was armed with his almost brand new bamboo fly rod which he treasures (but which monsieur Cognard thought very little of), so his response is understandable.

Last Chance

When Jenny and I go to weekend flea markets, she usually goes one way and I go another, looking for second hand book or bric-a-brac stalls. I have found some wonderful books and fishing items at these places. The [Shongweni Market](#) has an [SPCA](#) stall where some interesting books can be found. A friend found a copy of Neville Nuttall's "Life in the Country and Trout Streams of Natal", which he paid R10 for and kindly gave to me. So. next time you are dragged along to the flea market, remember that it might be your lucky day.

Another place that I have found of particular interest is the [Last Chance Books](#) situated at 137 Davenport (now Helen Joseph) Road. It is conveniently placed diagonally opposite Bean Green Coffee Roastery. Occasionally I pop around to Bean Green at lunch time for a coffee fix, a sandwich (or muffin) and listen to whatever is spinning on the old turntable (last time it was the Beatles – some nice memories), and then pop into the bookshop afterwards. The last time that I was there, a few weeks ago, I saw a number of fishing books, including Bob Crass's books "Freshwater Fishes of Natal" and "Trout in South Africa", Dean Riphagen's "The South African Fly Fishing Handbook" Frank Sawyer's "Keeper of the Stream" (2 copies), Malcolm Meintjie's "Through the Looking Glass", to name a few of the more sought after items.

I bought a copy of The Magic Wheel a few months back, an anthology of fishing stories from biblical days to fairly recent times - I have still to wend my way through it.

As for bric-a-brac stalls, my colleague bought a Colman smoker for a ridiculous price. Last week I picked up an Okuma reel, barely used, with what appears to be a good quality floating fly line, for the princely sum of R100, a bargain indeed.

More anon.....

Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary. - Patrick F. McManus



For those who don't get Tom Sutcliffe's newsletter, you must as it is a magnificent treasure trove of fly fishing goodies. These images are taken from his latest newsletter. As you can see, Jay's genius does not stop with his vice. It is inspiring other to think out of the box, in one case a very long way out! All you need to do to get Tom's newsletter is to send him an e mail. This is best done off his web site [Spirit of Fly Fishing](#).

More on Proportion

I had just finished the article on phi when the latest issue of the excellent [Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Magazine](#) arrived. This is a must read magazine out of Scotland that nails it issue after issue. Well the latest edition records the outcome of this year's fly tying competition. It was won by Gavin Jehu. Here are his winning flies with the judges' comments. You can see how important neatness and balance are. Both are issues that Gordon Van Der Spuy emphasised.

Gavin Jehu's winning dressings

Round 1

McCormack's Spring Bumble

The basic challenges in this fly are tail proportions, dubbing a slim body, an even palmer and rib, neat head hackle tied in proportion to the body hackle. Getting the tail right caused a few issues, but the main area that lost points was at the body; uneven ribs usually caused by a lumpy body.



Neat proportions and very clean head.



I like the detail in this fly. Look at the pearl strip along the side, or the wispy dubbing around the eyes.

Round 2

Bead head Prince Nymph

Look at the Prince and that bead should be tied in solid, then the tail biots should be on the sides of the hook, smooth body with evenly spaced turn of rib, the wing bang on top of the shank.

I'm guessing that biots were unfamiliar to a fair number of entrants, the most common issue was proportion – tail and wing too long – and tails rolled off the sides, probably caused by the rib. I think of bead heads as very basic stuff, some were far too large and a few more were not tied in firmly.



Neat, clean and exactly to the brief. The tails lie on the sides of the hook and the 'wing' is exactly on top of the shank.



I like the tapering body with the attention-grabbing orange strip down the back, brown partridge hackle suggesting legs.

Round 3

Black & Blue Jam

That hair wing was always going to cause problems. However, the tinsel body and rib probably caused as many issues where the rib pulled the tinsel and exposed thread. In general, the layer wings were tied well, far fewer issues than I expected.



Clean tying, I would prefer a slightly smaller head. Otherwise a stylish fly.



Again, a well executed and detailed fly, note the pearl at the tail, and the hints of orange hackle along with the black and brown.

Round 4

Bloody Mary

This is a 'Cruncher'-style fly so I thought it would be a familiar fly, but there's very little room to hide in this dressing. Points were lost for tail proportion and position – again, the rib tended to push the tail off the top of the shank for a lot of entries. I think, ideally, that two-section body should taper, thickening towards the head, and the rib should be evenly spaced. This proved challenging.



Good proportions and shape, it's difficult to fault the execution.



Dyed tippet for a hackle and tail, red holographic tag ... nicely conceived. A well tied fly.

Articles

Damsels and Dragons

By Ian Cox



Dragonflies and damselflies both belong to the order Odonata. Dragonflies belong to the sub order Anisoptera and damselflies to the sub order Zygoptera. Odonata undergo simple metamorphosis, which is they go through three life stages, egg nymph and adult, so it is one of the easier orders to understand and imitate. Happily it is also a major food source, especially for stillwater trout.

Though there are some adult mayfly and dragonfly imitations about it is really only the nymph stage is the only one of real interest to fly fisherman.

Aquatic dragonflies are divided into four families and damselflies into seven. All are found in rivers, even fast flowing ones, as well as in still waters. Their habitat also varies from vegetation to under and about rocks, with damselflies being more common around the latter, especially weeds beds.

Both are highly predatory and fairly big (between 2.5 and 7.5 cm). However while dragonflies have flat thick bodies, damselflies' are a lot slimmer. Damselflies also often sport three short gill tails. Dragonflies have no tails at all. Both have very large and prominent eyes.

Neither is very colourful in their nymph form. Olive through to dark brown covers their colour range.

Where they really differ is the way they move. Dragonflies are jet propelled while damselflies are not. Much like a jet ski, dragonflies squirt water out there rear ends, and can thus move about very quickly indeed. Damselflies are limited to wriggly little flicks to get about which means they don't, at least not very much.

For how dragons swim and hunt look at [this](#) and for damselflies look at [this](#). They hunt in much the same way. Click [here](#) to see damselfly hunting.

So it should come as no surprise that you should fish them differently.

Dragonfly imitations are fished with a short strip (5 to 8 cm) retrieve pausing between each strip. You can achieve the same effect with a slow figure of eight retrieve. Dragonflies can be fished throughout the water column so anything from a floating line to a sinking one and all in between will work.

Damselflies tend to congregate nearer the surface and given their lack of jet propulsion swim a lot more slowly. They are especially vulnerable on hot summer days as it is then that congregate in the shallows especially in still water. A floating or intermediate line and a very slow retrieve with tiny strips (never more than 2cm) work best. In fact you will probably do best to leave this fly to a dead drift allowing the occasional twitch to imitate a wriggle. Remember if you fast strip a damselfly imitation, and let's face it who has not, you are imitating a dragonfly and not a damsel.

The odd thing is that dragons and damsels are both often regarded as still water imitations in this country. But they are not. Both are found in streams nestling under rocks and near vegetation even in fast flowing water. If you look at the opening blurb in Bill Hansford Steele's excellent booklet "Freshwater Flies for South African Waters" you will see that this is only a slightly more successful still water pattern for him. I was reminded of this fact last year when a friend hooked into a 42cm trout fishing a tiny mountain pool on the upper Bell River drifting a large damsel imitation.

Both can be fished the whole year round.

So what is available when it comes to patterns?

In both cases the primary trigger are their large eyes. Members of the order Odonata are predators and as such need 20/20 vision. Their eyes are huge and your fly should reflect this.

The most widely available and best damsel imitation is the [Red Eyed Damsel](#). It is very hard to beat if it is tied well, that is with an abdomen that is so thin so as to be almost non existent. This is seldom the case with most damsel patterns I have seen. Indeed I sometimes think we have this fly all wrong. I wonder if we ever imitate a damselfly at all. Think about it damselflies wriggle and how often do you see an imitation that does that? It's the tail that wriggles. So why do we use a long shanked hook and tie an abdomen? If we were true to the insect we would tie a fly where the thorax and head took up all of what would be a very short shanked hook with a long marabou tail behind, perhaps tied off near the tip thus representing the abdomen and gill tails. That would be a lot closer to what we are trying to imitate which perhaps makes the [Kamberg Nymph](#) the nearest thing we have to a true damselfly imitation even though it is punted as a dragonfly imitation.

Getting a damselfly to wiggle is not easy. The best way to do this even though it does in my view, cross the line between true fly fishing and dragging a Rapala is to use a Petitjean [Magic Head](#). See the excellent article [That Elusive side to side Wiggle](#) by Ed Herbst that was recently published on Tom Sutcliffe's [The Spirit of Fly Fishing](#).

The most ubiquitous commercially available dragonfly imitation is Randall Kaufman's [Lake Dragon](#) though some truly horrible variations of Herman Botes' [Papa Roach](#) are also sold. Buy it if you must. It's a hell of a lot better than the Lake Dragon. But we are fly tyers so much better to tie your own. The best dragonfly imitation by a country mile, in my view, is Herman Botes' Papa Roach. Tom Sutcliffe's [Neutral Density Dragon](#) is an excellent dragonfly imitation, so is one of my all-time favourites, the [Filoplume Dragon](#). Terry Ruane's [Dragon](#) is another. In fact such is the attractiveness of dragonflies to trout that very few of our better fly tyers haven't had a go at creating a dragonfly nymph imitation. See for example Fred Steynberg's [Stream Dragon](#).

Finally if you want to learn more you can do a lot worse than visit Fred Steynberg's excellent web site [Linecasters](#) where you will find an article he and Mario Du Preez wrote entitled "[A South African dragonfly nymph imitation](#)". They also did one on [damselflies](#).

The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning. - Theodore Gordon

In The Market

Fly Fishing, the Book Series by Gary Borger



Gary Borger in collaboration with his son Jason has just brought out the 4th in a series of what will be 20 books on fly-fishing. I have got the first three (available at [Netbooks](#) at around R300.00 a pop and I can tell you they are well worth the money, that is if you want to delve a little deeper into the “science” of enticing a fish to take a fly. “Fishing the film”, “Reading waters” and “Long flies” (streamers) are already available in South Africa. “The angler as a predator” has just been released in the USA and the fifth in the series

“Fly gear” is in final production. Members with short attention spans, yes that is you Nick, will like them because they are short reads made shorter by the fact that each chapter is broken down into easily digestible titbits.

The C&F 3 in 1 Dubbing Brush

The C&F 3 in 1 dubbing brush is one of my all-time favourite fly tying tools which is crazy because the dubbing brush part of it is so lame. The rest of the tool is a delight. The needle is angled which as the blurb says makes it good for delicate work. But I like it so much because of its general look and feel and the half hitch tool at the other end. The profile of the tool itself and the depth of the cup at the half hitch end are perfect for sliding half hitches onto small flies especially when things get tight. That is why I would shell out the R340.00 it costs if I ever lost mine. It is supplied by [Frontier Fly Fishing](#), it has to be said at a very good price when compared to what you will pay for it abroad.



Peter Brigg's Call of The stream Blog. Click [here](#) to go there. Do it! Now!

Reports

No reports on outings this month. It has been a very quiet winter or at least if members are fishing they are not telling me about it. Now I wonder why that could be???

There is stuff about to happen, albeit not club related. Here are two events worth considering.

Gordon Van Der Spuy Fly Tying Clinic Chamber House Pietermaritzburg 13 and 14 September



Then for those of you who missed Gordon Van Der Spuy's fly tying clinic at the end of July, The Natal Fly Fishers Club and the Natal Fly Dressers have got him down to Pietermaritzburg on 13 and 14 September for a repeat performance. I understand tells me that there are still places available. The cost will be R250.00 (members of the two clubs get a R50.00 discount) The time is as before, Friday night and all of Saturday. The venue is Chamber House. (just inside the main gates of the Royal show grounds. Contact pam Reid of the NFFC at nffc@futurenet.co.za if you are interested.

XPLORERTM

FLY FISHING



NATAL YELLOW FISH EVENT

Date: Sept 13th-15th 2013
Highover Lodge
Mkomazi River- Richmond

Natal Scaly Clinic:

Learn the basics of targeting the Natal scaly on fly. The *Labeobarbus Natalensis*, is our local KZN yellowfish. They are plentiful in our natal river system but often overlooked by most fly anglers. They are a good fighting fish and great fun to catch on fly. We will cover the basics of targeting these fish on fly, their feeding habits, where to find them, different ways to catch them, the types of rigs and set ups and flies to use for the right conditions.

We will talk about the different styles of fly angling to target these fish, long line nymphing, Czech nymphing and surface feeding on a dry fly. We will talk about the different tackle available for each of these styles of fishing. All this, will be demonstrated on the banks of the Mkomazi River. After the clinic we will be able to put these techniques to practice with a two guide assisted fishing sessions on the river.

Includes:

Two nights shared accommodation, in the Chalets, at Highover lodge.
All meals: Friday dinner. Saturday breakfast, lunch & dinner. Sunday breakfast & lunch.
Scaly Clinic- Saturday morning. Fly tying Demo/workshop Saturday night
Two Guide assisted fishing sessions, Saturday afternoon, & Sunday morning.
Unguided fishing sessions Friday and Sunday afternoon.
Excludes- all drinks. Bring your own drinks/beers or spirits.
Costs: R1500.00

Contact for booking- 031-564-7368 or jandi@netactive.co.za

Club Stuff

Subs

Subs for 2013 are Seriously Overdue.

The new subs are:

Joining Fee	R20 senior R10 Junior
Senior Member	R150
Junior Member	R80
Family Member	R150 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member.

Bank details

Bank : Standard Bank

Branch : Westville

Branch Code : 045 426

Account Number : 053 189 647

Please advise e mail Dave Smith 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	Jay Smit	082 574 3722	jaysmit@durbanflytyers.co.za
Secretary	Geoff Dettmer	083 785 4997	geoffdettmer@durbanflytyers.co.za
Treasurer	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	davesmith@durbanflytyers.co.za
IT	Warren Prior	083 348 9790	warrenprior@durbanflytyers.co.za
Saltwater	Nick Nortje	083 782 9697	nicknortje@durbanflytyers.co.za
Freshwater	The Committee		
Entertainment	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	brucecurry@durbanflytyers.co.za
Editor	Ian Cox	082 574 3722	iancox@durbanflytyers.co.za

Forthcoming Attractions

Date		Venue	Organiser	Status
6 to 8 September	Cape Vidal Weekend	Cape Vidal	Nick Nortje	Bookings Open Contact Nick Nortje
October	River and Dam on UHFFC Water	Underberg	Warren Prior	Under Construction
November	Tiger Fishing	Pongola	Dave Smith	Under Construction



For Sale

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



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

Float Tube Rod Holders

Russell Henwood

Cell: 082 809 2592

Email: russhenwood@gmail.com



MAGNETIC READERS

Hang around your neck so they never get lost or damaged. Click open and closed.

ONLY R100.00 each.

STRENGTHS : From 1.0 to 3.5

Colours: Blue, Red, Black, Brown, Grey, Pink, Tortoise Shell

Contact:

Linda Arbuthnot: 082 7750 555

Paul Leisegang: 082 338 0026

J-Vice Fly Tying Vice



Jay Smit

Cell: 0832508211

Email: jay@ismit.co.za

Web: <http://www.jvice.com>



Honey sales: Anja Smith
 0832951669

Bee removal: Dave Smith:
 083 251 1629



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, 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
Simon Graham	081 87 44 855 simon@wildfly.co.za	still water 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.		
Ben Pretorius	http://www.ufudu.co.za/	
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	