

THE BOBBIN

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September 2019

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

By the time you read this you will probably have your kit cleaned, repaired and packed to head out on the 01st September for the traditional opening day of the season. Reports coming in is that water is very low. In fact so low that those in the know are remarking they haven't seen it this low for years. Opening day is NOT the most productive time of the season but many of us go out to have a look at the rivers and start working out the cobwebs from the three months with little fishing.

This is the case for most people unless you have been taking advantage of the fantastic Scalies fishing at present. I have to confess that I've been "clearing cobwebs" on the Umkomaas in recent weeks. We are really lucky that these good fighting fish are on our doorstep. If you haven't heard by now the NFFC is running a Scalies clinic soon. Advert is out so if you are keen to learn checkout the event.



There are many threats to the continued quality of our trout fishing, whether in the rivers or the dams. Even if we win the trout fight, climate change, water pollution and land degradation are all coming down the track at us. These factors are already playing a part in reducing and limiting the range of fish, both indigenous and non-native alike. Just the other day I was told that 80% of a recent club stocking in their dams was unsuccessful due to high water temperatures.

But let's be positive...get out there and use those flies! See you soon

FROM THE EDITOR

A nice tie By Andrew Mather was done at the last meeting, and I was sorry not to have been able to attend. However, the SBS is clear and I will attempt to tie a few before going to the Richtersveld mid-month where the pattern can be put to the test.

Due to the lack of member contributions, I have written an article on fishing hats for your edification and hopefully a few chuckles!

Next month's Bobbin will be delayed because I will be away without my computer – fishing for largies at the Richtersveld and then on to Cape Town for a week of visiting friends and being a general nuisance and lay about



NEXT MEETING

2 September 2019 /19.00 for 19.30/ Room G1 Westville Library

Peter Brigg will be tying the Red Butt Woolly Worm



THE NAMAQUA BARB - BY ANDREW MATHER

MATERIALS:

- **Hook** – A Gamakatsu B10S in size 4 was used for this tie but circle hooks up to 5/0 can be used
- **Thread** – strong white thread
- **Body** – two zonker strips in cream and white.
- **Eyes**– use dumbbells if you need to get down fast or else “stick-on” eyes for neutral buoyancy.
- **Lateral line** – white/clear ice chenille and holographic flash
- **Superglue**

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

Start thread and tie in dumbbell eye underneath hook shank

Tie in ice chenille from just short of bend in hook to the eyes.

Select a length of white zonker and place over hook to determine the point where the hook point must pierce the skin. Make a small hole at this point and then place zonker strip on hook with skin side facing up.


Take darker zonker and place on top of hook to check length. Once happy with length put a SMALL amount of superglue on the skin side and glue down along the top so that the zonker is glued to ice chenille and back portion of lighter coloured zonker. Beware that too much superglue will create a hard and unholy mess!

Tie in top and bottom zonker at the eyes and then add two strips of holographic flash along the lateral line on both sides. Tie off.



ALL ABOUT HATS – STELIOS COMNINOS


I did a quick survey of my assortment of hats today and discovered that they could be categorized as follows:

1. Specially bought fishing hats
 2. Expensive stylish hats with no real fishing value other than to look cool and refined
 3. My remaining cap collection – many have been lost or worn out over the years. Various caps remain such as:
 - a. My preferred ones that I wear daily – the current one is titled “Grumpy Mkhulu” and made specially for me by my wife
 - b. Promotional branded giveaways hat with free advertising – I hate those and don’t wear them publically refusing to be a bill board for business.
 - c. Joke gift hats from family and friends. Why is it that just because I fish, I have to get stupid fishing hats as gifts. These hats tend to hang on the rack and gather dust.
 - d. Club or membership affiliated hats. Sometimes worn when its “group appropriate”
- 
- A photograph showing a stack of several fishing hats hanging on a wooden rack. The hats are of various colors and designs, including a white one with a logo, a blue one with a pink band, and a black one with a red band. The rack is made of vertical wooden slats.

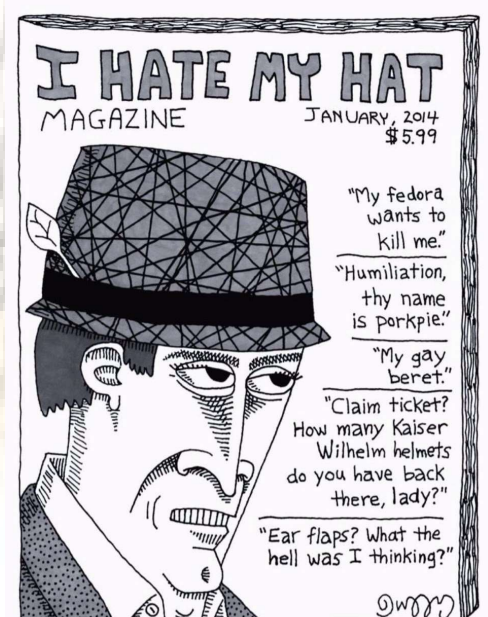
Most anglers always wear same fishing hat year after year regardless of its condition or possible offensiveness to others. We wear that hat (seldom cleaning the foul build-up of dirt, grease, and sweat) until it has outlived its life or goes "missing" after your spouse says "That hat is disgusting and needs an oil change!"

Besides protecting your head against the sun, a hat helps with the glare, and it protects your forehead from getting burned. But, hats have other qualities too. Every angler has that “special” hat - the more superstitious anglers would call it their “lucky” fishing hat. Without a doubt, a hat can make or break a fishing trip. No other article of clothing has that power. A hat is known to increase the number and size of fish caught and I know a number of anglers who feel decidedly disadvantaged if they do not have that special hat firmly placed on their noggins while casting a line. It is hard to convince such an angler that their fishing skills are not highly dependent on what they put on our heads. The older the hat, the better anglers we become not because of the hat or our luck changing – we just become better at catching fish.

I have a buddy who swears by his lucky hat, so much so that even in its now unwearable and non-functional condition, it has a special place on his boat – a tatty bit of rag hanging on his centre console! I have tried to explain to him that this rag has no impact on his catch rate, but he insists that it needs to be close to him at all times while fishing! I invited him onto my boat last year, and that bit of rag came with him...and this is a 21st century intelligent man! I insisted that that infested thing was not allowed on my boat and that he should choose between staying on the bank with his hat, and boarding the boat without it. It was a pearler of a day and he could not resist being out on the boat – so he relented and left the rag in the car. That day he caught his personal best grunter and many other species in almost unprecedented numbers. I think he is now convinced that his rag was in fact detrimental to his catch rate – mainly attracting rats and mice and numerous puffers and other undesirable species. However, that rag remains in his possession!



Another friend realised that he had left his hat back on the river bank after a day of fishing. On our way home he realised this and reversed direction and drove 45 minutes back to find it. But the hat was nowhere to be seen. I tried to convince him that it was just a hat – in fact a smelly stained and raggedy thing with a couple of rusted flies pinned on the brim. I pointed out to him that that hat should have long ago been removed from this world and that hat technology has changed along with climate change - and that it was essential to get a good quality hat made from modern materials that provide better protection from UV rays. The upshot was that he bought a new hat (at considerable cost) with a wider brim, well ventilated, crushproof, UV protected and with other bells and whistles. On our next fishing trip while gearing up bankside before fishing, I noticed that the new hat was not present and I asked about it. With a wry smile he dug into his duffle bag and pulled out his



lost hat that he thought he had left on the river bank. He had in fact packed it into his duffle bag and had forgotten. He put the smelly thing on his head and went fishing saying that he was very happy to have found his lucky accessory. Apparently, his new hat is now used for social gatherings only – and his catch rate remains unchanged.

OK, I admit that I have had a few favourite fishing hats in my time, but I don't attribute any magical qualities to them – they were just comfortable and utilitarian. I have progressed over time to different hat formats - from wanting to be a cool youngster to being a staid ballie concerned about the impact of UV rays on his bald pate.

In my earlier fishing days from childhood until my early 20s, I never wore a hat....I mean, who did wear a hat in those days when no one even used sun cream other than to tan more (usually using Brylcreem!). I don't think UV rays had been invented at that time and sunburn and peeling skin was a rite of passage. I only started wearing baseball caps in my 20s so that I could look cool – never as protection – because they don't really protect you from the sun. As a youngster, a cap was the thing to wear – but it never afforded great protection, so it was usually accompanied by a handkerchief (I can't remember when I last saw a handkerchief) tucked under the back providing some protection against the sun for neck and ears.

In later years I felt the need to look like a real fly fisherman (and could afford it) I bought myself an Akubra Cattleman hat on a business trip to Australia. This undoubtedly gave me the distinguished look of a seasoned fly angler. Wearing this hat made me realise the benefits of a wide brim and good protection against sun and rain – especially keeping my specs dry. I really liked this hat that made me stand out in a crowd and be the envy of all. In later years I realised that the cool looking factor did not make a cool head. Made from processed rabbit fur (what else can the Aussies do with their excess of vermin?) the hat retains heat, lacks adequate ventilation and has a level of stiffness that no longer pleases me. It also does not travel well – requiring to be worn on planes and things because it doesn't pack nicely. I really don't know how Aussie farmers manage! Anyway, the Akubra has been parked off – so to speak, and makes the odd appearance at outdoor events because it still looks good and stands out in a crowd.



After a trip to Mexico where I bought a real Panama hat, I stopped using the uncomfortable Akubra and wore my Panama hat. I shouldn't have because it was a nice dress hat which quickly became not so pretty through being worn while fishing. It is essentially a gentleman's hat, not really meant for angling but rather for sitting in corner cafes and strolling on the beach. I wore that Panama hat for a few years until my puppy Ridgeback chewed it up. I am still very sad about that – both by spoiling it



by having used it as a fishing hat and it being chewed up. A couple of years ago, while in Panama airport, I tried to buy a replacement, but was too shocked at the price. I still curse that Ridgeback!



After the demise of my Panama, I reluctantly returned to wearing my Akubra until my wife bought me an Emthunzini UV resistant cotton hat which I wore for years. Despite its Zulu branding (emthunzini means “in the shade” in Zulu) the hat is made in China. In its first 6 months, the elastic band inside deteriorated and I took it back to where I bought it. I was accused of “abusing” the hat – which I felt was very insulting. Is constantly using a hat tantamount to abuse? However, it was repaired and the shop attendant got abused by me – I reminded him of our Consumer Protection Act! That hat has stood the test of time – it’s now looking very much more “abused” after at least 10 years of constant use – it is mouldy in places and stained by sun cream. I also sewed a merry Guatemalan crafted hat band on it. It has been in the washing machine more times than I can count and has lost its shape and the hat band colours have run. It was (yes past tense) a great hat very comfortable and cool and wind resistant on a speeding boat. Past tense because my wife says that I cannot any longer be seen in public with that thing on my head!



I now have an imported Tilley hat – which so far has not been on the water or seen a fish! It is brand new and I hope to take it fishing soon. Known as a *Tilley Endurables LTM6 Airflo Hat* – in Khaki/Olive made in Canada and comes with a two-year, all perils, 50% deductible insurance policy. If the hat has been irretrievably lost, stolen or destroyed within 2 years of date of purchase, they will replace it at 50% of current catalogue price, plus shipping and taxes. The Tilley Hat has a worldwide Lifetime Guarantee and if it wears out due to normal wear and tear, poor workmanship or faulty material they will repair or replace your hat – just like a premium fly rod! It is made from

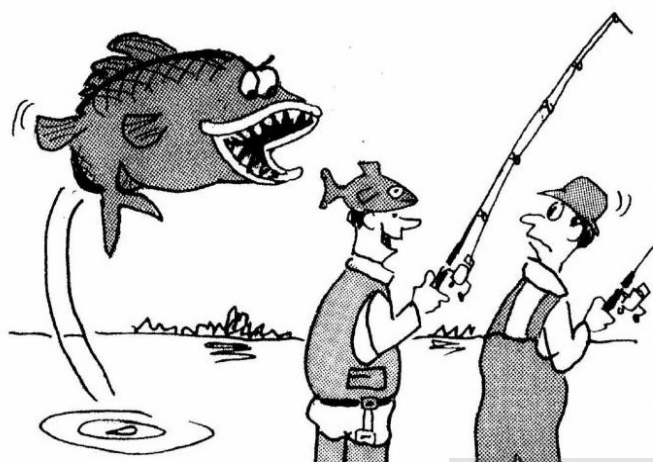


lightweight Nylantium, a Teflon-coated nylon woven fabric, keeping you cool while providing excellent UV protection. The mesh surrounding the top of the crown allows for incredible breathability. Certified sun protection delivers an UPF of 50+. It stays on in the wind using the wind cord – apparently even while skydiving! It is very lightweight weighing in at a remarkable 85 grams. It is buoyant and stays afloat in water if it flies off your head - and it repels rain and is also mildew resistant. What more, it has a secret pocket in the crown to carry ID, cash or credit card.

Yes, this untested hat is now my chosen one. Whether it brings me luck or not, I don’t care. I just know that that next time I’m on the water I will look cool, be cool, be protected, be the envy of all around me and it will be a very good day and with some pure luck I might catch bigger and more fish....not that it really matters.



“Don’t be a fool, John! They’ll kill you! Give them what they want — you can always buy another hat!”



“MY WIFE BOUGHT ME THIS FUNNY HAT SHAPED LIKE A FISH.”

DURBAN FLY TYERS COMMITTEE (*Portfolios subject to change*)

Chairman	Andrew Mather	083 3090233	andrewmather@telkomsa.net
Vice Chairman	Stelios Comninos	083 255 3334	stelios.comninos@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	smiffam@absamail.co.za
Secretarial and entertainment	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	Bruce.curry.too@gmail.com
Additional member	Tanya Giles	082 336 4489	tanjagiles@icloud.com
The Bobbin	Stelios Comninos	082 574 3722	stelios.comninos@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Joining Fee	R250 senior R140 Junior
Senior Member	R250
Junior Member	R150
Family Member	R250 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member

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

Bank details

Bank: Standard Bank, Westville

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

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

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

QUICK LINKS

DURBAN SHOPS THAT STOCK FLY TYING MATERIAL

The Complete Angler	Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof, 3610, Tel 031 764 1488 <i>Superb freshwater selection of fly tying materials. Salty stuff too</i>
Kingfisher	http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shopp.php <i>A wide selection of fly tying materials balanced more towards the salt</i>
The Fish Eagle	105 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal https://www.facebook.com/THEFISHEAGLE

SOUTH AFRICAN ONLINE SHOPS

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

KZN FLY FISHING GUIDES/CASTING INSTRUCTORS

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

KZN FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

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

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HONEY

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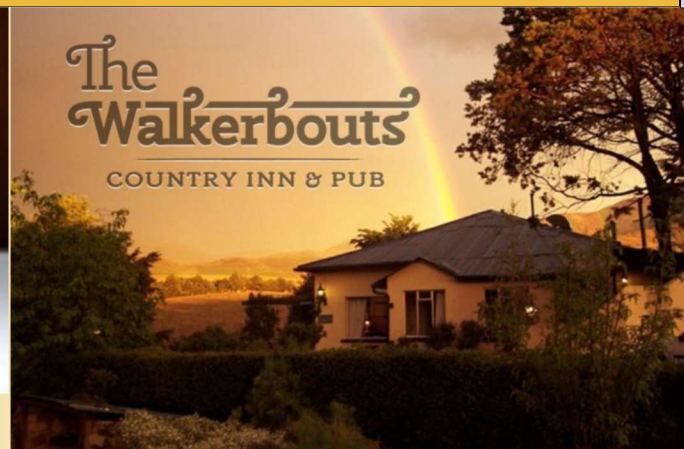
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