



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 424: June 2017



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Editorial

Thanks this month to John Millar for his interesting article “Fishing the Briny”. As all anglers know, getting the most enjoyment and success from your fishing involves adapting to the conditions, the seasons and the weather. So, when the rivers are unfishable, what better way to spend a day than to get out into Cook Strait and into some great sea fishing on a charter boat. John’s article reminds us that there are more ways than one to satisfy our fishing appetites throughout the year.

As always, members are encouraged to share their fishing exploits, no matter what type, with other club members by writing an article for the newsletter. All contributions gratefully received.

Chris Kuchel

President’s Piece



Some people suggest that rainy days are good for ducks. Clearly, they don’t go duck shooting in May. A strong wind and rain is a delight to duck shooters, ask Steve what he thought about fine weather on Opening morning. It’s also worth noting that duck shooting comes around each May so give the shooters a reasonable chance to shoot some ducks by

keeping away from those waterways where shooting is going on.

Recently I have been out on the river trying to catch a fish without much success. These things happen and it means I need to keep on trying. The reason I mention this is that not always will you be successful, sometimes it may be you and perhaps on the day the fish were not interested.

Going fishing on the Hutt for me is more about trying a few different things, practising casting, sorting out good gear combinations and just enjoying being there. Whilst I have not been successfully catching fish, I have had the opportunity to go out with some fellow members and observe what they do. This is what the Buddy Program is all about. Yes, it would be good to catch a fish but there is are a lot of other things that

are happening when you are out there and observing what others do is the best way to learn so give it a go.

On 2 of the last 3 trips to the Hutt I have been asked by Steve and fellow ranger Mike (not Mike Nansett) to produce my licence. This is not a problem and something we all should be happy to do. Mike and Steve are out there to protect the water we fish and they have both given some clues on where the fish should be all I need to do now is catch them.

At our May club night we had John Gummer from Palmerston North speak to us via Skype for an hour or so. I met John when I was a controller at the Nationals a couple of years ago. John is a relatively young lad who works for Hunting and Fishing in Palmerston North. He maybe young but he certainly has a mature head on his shoulders. John's enjoyment of fishing is evident and his dedication to trying new things is something to admire.

John talked about his experience of fishing at the recent Oceania Championships held on the lakes near Turangi. It is clear from listening to him that if something is not working it's time to try something different. John explained that he started off by stripping woolly buggers and Sam was using a technique called plonking. When asked to explain what "Plonking" is most of us would describe this as "Dry fly Dropper" perhaps with a longer line between the dropper and nymph. Sam was getting hits and John wasn't so it was time for John to change.

This is perhaps something to think about when you go fishing with some body next time on a lake, river, at sea or on a boat. Fish a technique that is different from those around you, if it doesn't work ask what they are catching fish on. Fisherman may not be keen to tell you where they go fishing but from my own experience they are pleased to tell and show you what is succeeding for them.

John also is taking up the challenge to catch saltwater fish including Kingfish on a barbless fly. This creates a whole new series of challenges and clearly it is something that John thrives on. We can all learn from this approach, take up the challenge and try something new. It may be a good

excuse to buy a new rod and gear to go with it and perhaps bring home some good eating fish like Mike Nansett did recently.

We did not proceed with the workshop as there was not enough interest in the club, that's okay we accept that there are always other things going on in people's lives that need to be attended to. What we will be doing is providing one to one tuition to those who put their names and try and give them give them guidance on those aspects of fishing they need assistance with.

We held a casting clinic on Sunday 14 May that was well attended. This is the time of year to get out there and practice your casting and seek some guidance. Better now than at the beginning of the new season in October as those that were keen to assist may have 'Gone Fishing'.

Keep up the practice through the winter months and it will pay dividends come Spring time.

All the best

Ross Goodman

June Activities

Monday 12 th	AGM, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 17 th	Ruamahanga Competition
Sunday 18 th	Casting Clinic, Belmont Domain, 10am
Wednesday 21 st	Committee Meeting, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Wednesday 28 th	Fly Tying Night, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm

Club News

Annual General Meeting - King Lion Hall – Monday 12 June, 7.30pm

Agenda

1. Welcome to members
2. Apologies
3. Notification of items of general business
4. Minutes of the 2016 AGM
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Subscriptions for 2017/2018
8. Budget for 2017/2018
9. Presentation of trophies and awards
10. Guiding raffle draw
11. Election of officers
12. Appointment of reviewer of financial statements
13. Appointment of cheque signatories
14. Notices of motion/remits
15. General business

Members have been emailed the 2016 AGM minutes to read prior to the meeting.

Casting Clinic

This month's casting clinic will be held on Sunday 18th June at Belmont Domain. Be there early and ready for a 10am start.

The coordinator is Ian Lawson. If you want to attend, please sign up on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who we contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

Library News

The library is open from 7pm on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Ajit in the normal way.

June Fly Tying Night – Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 28 June 7.15pm

This month Stillwater Flies. Stillwater fishing can be rewarding all year round. Anglers must check local regulations because many lakes and reservoirs have a close season. We will tie a Chironomid Pupa and Damsel Nymph.



The fly order Diptera (two winged) includes many species such as Bluebottle, House Fly, Mosquito, Crane Fly, Midge. The fly of primary importance to anglers is the midge particularly in slow moving and still waters. The Chironomid larva and pupae are trout food staples with the hatched adult insect being of less interest. Midges lay their eggs in great numbers in water where the river or lake bed has a muddy bottom. These insects have a high tolerance for poor water quality so can thrive where other insects fail to survive. The larva of the midge is known as a Bloodworm because they can vary in colour from green, through olive to brown or maroon or may even be bright red in colour. The colour of the

wormlike larva is determined by the amount of haemoglobin in the larval body.

After the larva moults and becomes a pupa there is a downsizing with every instar or stage of its development until a very small insect eventually hatches at the water surface. The subsurface stages of the insect are where it is most vulnerable to predators, including fish. Although these creatures are quite small the high density of populations mean that they can be found in fish stomachs most of the time. Hook size is often #14 down to #20.

Recommended reading on this topic is 'Fly Craft Angling' by Philip Rowley.

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for June

We would like members to tie a Bloodworm of their design. It should be heavy enough to sink at least 3 metres to the bottom of a shallow lake. At rest these critters are often curved in shape. Bring your bloodworms to the fly tying meeting.

Bound Shield Fly Tying Winner for April.

Congratulations to Peter Zilwood for his olive green rabbit which was declared the winning entry for the Bound Shield for April.



Here is Peter's fly, along with the other entries received. The black rabbit was by Krystal, the clipped deer hair muddler style fly was Ian Lawson and the other ones were by John Rochester.



Raffle Winners in May

Congratulations to Colin Lewis for winning the Green Trout Guiding raffle. Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for a fantastic guided trip with Jim Rainey. You've got to be in to win, so make sure you buy your ticket each month at club meetings. Geoff Stuart and Paul Stapp took away the \$20 Hunting and Fishing vouchers.

Photo Competition

Congratulations to this month's winner, Krystal Smith. Her winning photo "Coffee then Fishing" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

May Fish of the Month

No entries were received for the month of May. Members are reminded to record their catches in the club fishing diary. This can be done through the club website.

Gibbs Shield

The Gibbs Shield competition was held on the Wainuiomata River in March. John Millar won the competition, being the only angler to land a fish. Despite the warm conditions, few fish were rising, but one did get tempted by John's cicada dry fly. At that time of year even trout that are lying quite deep will usually rise to a big dry fly. Congratulations John.



Olds Shield

Congratulations to Ian Lawson for taking out the Olds Shield One fly competition which was held on Hutt river. As the name of the competition suggests, competitors were only allowed to use one fly

pattern which together with factors such as weather or the fact that we already entered winter season made the competition very hard.

In total seven people signed up for this competition and only three of them landed a fish. First was Ian with his 52.5cm Brown Trout, second was Fraser Gibbs with his brown trout of 50cm and third Thomas Fichtner with a fish measuring 39.5cm.

It was hard and difficult fishing. Those who chose fishing in the morning made a better decision than others who chose fish late afternoon or evening as the weather worsened just after noon.

Big thanks for those who took part at this competition and tight lines to all our club members.



Ian Lawson's fine Hutt River brown.



Up-coming Competitions

Sat 17 th June	Ruamahanga River
Sat 8 th July	Gibbs Shield, Hutt River
August	No competitions
Sat 23 rd Sept	GJK Shield, Hutt River
November	No competitions
December	No competitions

All competition dates are weather dependent. Members can sign up for competitions at club nights or via the club website. Contact Thomas Fichtner 0210736210 for details.



Trout Talk

Big Jack

FURTHER NORTH

At a club night a couple of months ago a discussion started in a small group of us about fishing the Taupo Fishery and the methods that can be employed especially around indicators. As we know the fishery is administered by DOC. The question was asked as to how the particular regulation around using only yarn indicators arose.

In the mid-1980's foam and plastic indicators were allowed. Hook gape was optional and, more importantly, weight could not be added to the line so no split shot. Big ping pong ball floats artificially set the hook and big weighted hooks aided foul hooking (anglers didn't actually have to cast well) so they changed the regulations to set a maximum hook gape and no floats (yarn indicators instead). To compensate the regulations allowed weight to be added to the line. Yet many anglers still fish with heavy bombs regardless of what weight is needed in particular stretches

of water. For example, and speaking generally, the Tauranga -Taupo (TT) river requires less weight than parts of the Tongariro. Some anglers now use split shot exclusively with either a nymph or globug. They say that this results in less snags, less hooks in clothes and anatomy, less time at the fly tying bench and just as many fish.

Given that the regulations prohibit foam indicators, a few years ago I asked the question of DOC as to whether fishing a dry/dropper combination with the dry containing foam could be in breach of the regulations. I received the following reply:

"The manner of my response really relates to the express purpose for which you are tying the fly. The Taupo fishing regulations clearly state that a strike indicator:

(a) means any synthetic or natural yarn and its means of attachment to the line or cast used by the person fishing as an aid to detect a strike; but

(b) does not include (i) Any other material or object attached to the line or cast; or (ii) Any synthetic or natural yarn to which has been added any material or chemical (other than colour dye or surfactant line floatant preparation)

However, the definition of an artificial fly in the regulations states:

"Artificial fly includes any lure of feather, fur, wool or other material used in the making of artificial flies".

In your circumstance, it appears that you are tying the fly primarily to catch fish although at times it can also be useful as a strike indicator. This is legal and I have checked this with the Area Manager. But be cautious. If it was the other way around and you were attaching great lumps of foam to act primarily as a strike indicator that occasionally catches fish, this would be illegal. The true heart behind this message is we don't want people using large amounts of foam, glass, plastic bubbles or other similar materials as indicators as they are "floats" and floats artificially set the hook via resistance on the strike, giving the angler an unfair advantage. So therefore, as long as your creation is sized and tied as a dry fly you are fine. The technique of using a dry fly as an indicator

with nymph dropper(s) is tried and true and is great at covering all the bases for feeding trout. Also note that your fly would count. That is, a maximum of 3 flies can be used on any one line at Taupo and this would count as one of them.

So, now you know. Next month, more on weight and walking (no, not a fitness regime)

Fishing the Briny

John Millar

Autumn and winter can be good times to fish around Wellington's south or west coast from a boat. Quite often the winds will abate at this time of year and this always makes for good conditions.

I recently went on a half day charter aboard Seafarer 2 with Cook Strait Fishing Charters. The vessel is a 50ft wooden hulled commercial charter boat and was built in Freemantle in 1986 as a rock lobster fishing boat. It weighs 20 tonnes and is very stable on the water. The skipper Jonathan Delitch welcomed the party of anglers aboard as they arrived and his friendly manner made everyone feel relaxed and keen to set off. His crew consisted of 3 deck hands, Nathan, Nuko and Lisa and they were already busy setting up rods and tying traces when the fishing party boarded the launch. Part of their job was to assist with baiting of hooks and unhooking fish for the clients. They would replace sinkers, rigs and hooks if they were broken off. Lisa was a new addition to the crew and this was her second outing on Seafarer 2 but she was very enthusiastic and helpful (as well as being much prettier than the others).

I brought my own gear but most others used the charter boat's rods. These were all matched set Shimano rods and reels loaded with braid line.

After the skipper's customary safety talk and demonstration of how to wear lifejackets correctly, the boat slipped away from its berth on a fine and windless morning. The sky was fairly overcast but conditions were good for the trip.



Being a novice boat fisherman myself I was keen to watch and learn from an expert.

Jono the skipper was free with tips and advice as we motored out past Barratt's Reef. Our target species on the day was Terakihi. 'Yum yum', thought I. Nuko the deckhand had pointed out quite a number of seabird and Kawahai workups on the way out of the harbour. Perhaps this is a sign of plentiful baitfish numbers and may explain why so many Kingfish and Snapper have been caught in the harbour over summer and autumn. I stood alongside the skipper as he piloted us out to open sea. He explained that he was looking on his sounder for reef structure and shoals of Terakihi. Jono pointed out various bottom features and also small shoals of fish. He was looking for richer pickings because with a dozen fishers aboard he wanted to locate some good-sized groups of fish. When he reached his chosen area, he slowly cruised around to find fish. First up we were going to drift fish over some reefy bottom where there were fish showing on the sounder. Jono explained that we would fish from one side of the boat only when drifting to reduce the likelihood of line tangles. The depth was around 40 metres and there was a bit of tide

running. Our 12oz sinkers were not holding on the bottom and so 16oz sinkers were deployed. The first fish of the day was a Trevally and this was followed by Terakihi in quite good numbers. After several line tangles at the rear end of the boat Jono decided to prospect again for a spot to anchor so we wound up our lines and he cruised around for another 15 minutes or so until he found some better shoals of fish. He explained to me that fish always held position on the exposed side of reefs or foul where the tide was coming from. The sheltered side was always much less productive.

The anchor was duly dropped and berley set down to draw the fish in. We were quickly onto some good pan sized Terrys. The skipper had set the boat size limit to over 30 cm whereas the legal limit is 25 cm for this species. Everyone with a rod was catching fish. These were mainly Terrys but some good Blue Cod were boated as well.

At this point the crew put out morning tea of banana loaf and carrot cake. Bananas on a boat??? Isn't this supposed to bring bad luck?? Well that day, it didn't.

Hot drinks were self-serve from the galley. They were certainly looking after us and lunch was to come later!!

The fish bin was starting to bulge and so two of the crew commenced filleting the fish while the boat was at anchor. Jono fired up his ship's BBQ to slowly cook roast chicken for lunch.

It was about then that I was broken off by a Barracouta or something similar. A shredded trace with teeth marks on the nylon confirmed this. Some anglers to the rear of the boat seemed to specialise in catching Kawahai. I am guessing that their sinkers were lifting off the bottom and so they could have been fishing as much as 5-10 metres above our targeted fish. The crew were kept busy, dealing with the odd tangle or rebaiting for some fishers and unhooking fish to return or keep as well as filleting the catch. I hooked a heavy fish and it was a struggle to get it up to the boat. It put up a dour struggle then, when not far from view the trace broke and I lost the fish without seeing it. I was about to head to my bag for more gear when Nuko came over and tied on one of

the rigs they had supplied to everyone else. It was 80lb breaking strain nylon (double the strength I had been using) but identical circle hooks to mine except that mine had pink flasher hair tied on.

From that point I definitely had fewer hook-ups so I don't know for certain if it was the heavier line, the bare hooks or maybe the fish were going off the feed perhaps. Another thing was that the tide had slackened off so that could also have been a contributing factor.

We stayed close to that spot but Jono did move the boat a little and reset the anchor to reposition over more fish.

Lisa helped Jono to set out lunch – 4 roast chickens – bread rolls – coleslaw. It was delicious, the chicken was cooked to perfection it was tender and juicy. You work up a fair appetite when at sea and this was really great tucker and very satisfying. After lunch, it was back to the serious business of fishing. I caught a couple of good Blue Cod and more Terry's.

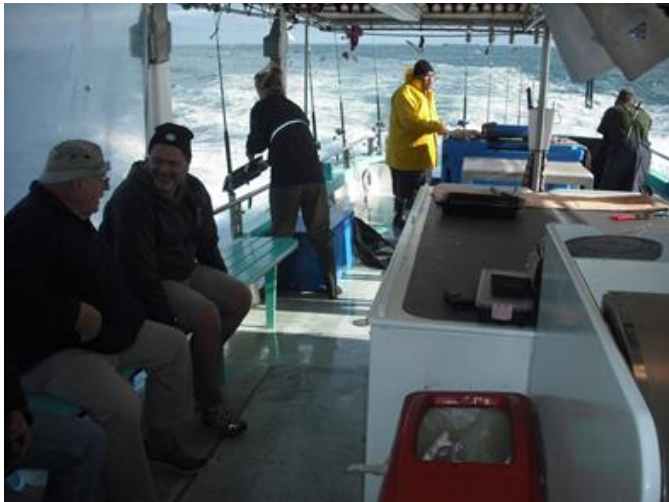


Jono was discussing some of the bird life that was near the boat with one of the guests. There was a Mollymawk (pictured) and the ever-present Shags. These were joined by Petrels and Gulls when the crew tossed the fish skins over the side from filleting.

A fisher just along from me had felt something at his line and wound up. He was stunned to find one and a quarter blue cod on the hooks. They were undersized fish but the one on the top hook was missing its body. Only the head was left and it was still opening and closing its mouth as if it was alive. A shark or Barracouta must have hit it on the way up. A few Spiny Dogfish were showing up in the catch by now as well. Fewer fish that were keepers were being caught now but there was the odd Terry and Blue Cod coming in. The total bag must have been close to 120 fish.

I hooked another heavy fish and it felt very much like the one I had lost earlier. As it came close to the surface we could see it was another big conger eel of around 4 foot long and very fat. Jono came to unhook it. He grabbed the trace in his left hand and used his unhooker to grip the hook. As he twisted the hook the fish made a lunge and fell off the unhooking tool but still hooked to the line. This pulled the upper hook deep into Jono's left hand. He quickly called for Nathan to cut the line. The eel swam off with a hook but the other circle hook was impaled in the skipper's hand. Nathan tried in vain to push the hook out but they had to cut the hook with side cutters then push the barbed end right through. Jono didn't make a fuss he just clenched some paper towels tightly in his fist for 15 mins or so until all bleeding had stopped. Now some superstitious person might say that the banana loaf was to blame but I say it was just bad luck.

It was getting late and was time to return to Seaview. The skipper told us that they would troll for a kingfish as we came through shallower water in the harbour. In the event of a hook-up then the trip organiser would be the lucky man to bring the Kingie to the boat. The crew set up two game rods in holders at the stern with lures running out the back. Our man was equipped with a gimbal and stood by as the boat reduced to trolling speed. One of the baits was hit but no fish was hooked. It may have been a Kingie or perhaps a big Kahawai we don't know.



As we motored towards the Marina the crew began dividing the day's catch. Each party member took away a bag of fillets that must have weighed 3 kg. At today's price for Terakihi which is \$25/kg for fillets, the bag of fish had to be worth \$75.

It had been an excellent day out and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. I can certainly recommend Cook Strait Fishing Charters to anyone who enjoys catching fish. Jonathan caters for groups and can usually accommodate individuals on trips where space allows.

For more information go to the website or look up 'Cook Strait Fishing Charters' on Google.

Fish Scene Fly Rod Test-Drive Day

Many thanks to Jeff Wood from Fish Scene for organising the fly rod test-drive session which was held at Belmont Domain on Sunday 30 April. Jeff brought along over a dozen different rods ranging from a cute 7ft fibreglass Gecko rod up to an 11ft fibreglass Echo spey rod with skagit line. And of course, there was also a range of modern carbon fibre rods in a variety of weights and lengths.



Wagging a rod in a shop is one thing, but being able to cast and compare them in the field is a completely different and far more useful experience. It was great to see members from both the Hutt valley and Wellington clubs taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

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