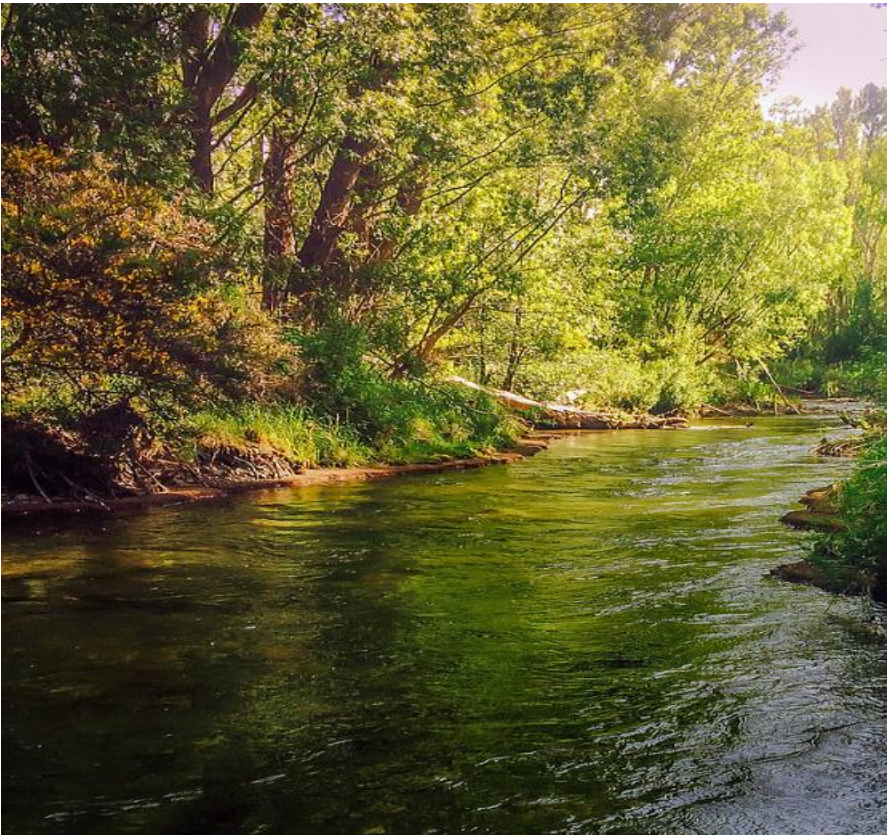


THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 416: October 2016



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Over the winter months while most of us have been sitting by the fire, sipping a glass of port and reading books about fishing, our club website www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz has been undergoing a rigorous regime of exercise, clean living and healthy eating. It's lost weight, had a complete style make-over and is now looking super fresh and sharp. The new layout makes navigation a breeze. At a glance, members can see up-coming events, book places on club trips, register for the casting clinics and buddy programme, submit photos, read past newsletters, access tips and useful links and even renew their fishing license. At a recent committee meeting, website manager Steve Doughty gave us a summary of site activity. The number of visitors to our site from both New Zealand and other parts of the world, shows that there is wide interest in what our club is doing and what we are all about.

Well that's all from me this month. I'm inspired! I'm off to see if I can get into some rigorous exercise, clean living, healthy eating.....

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece

We are now getting very close to October 1 when the fishing season opens on rivers that have been closed over the spawning period. This year I have concentrated on tying flies that I will be confident in using, instead of relying on ones that I have purchased. We have a number of talented fly-tiers in the club who are more than willing to pass on their knowledge at our monthly fly tying nights. This is guaranteed to help you improve the standard of flies you tie. Basic materials are provided at these evenings, but if you want to get more serious, you can purchase fly tying materials from



Hunting & Fishing and Fishscene who are both sponsors of our club. Jeff Wood from Fishscene, who is a very good tier in his own right is the main judge and sponsor for the inter club fly tying competition we are hosting in November.

Newer members are constantly seeking a pattern of fly that will catch a trout for them. What I have learnt is to keeping the fly pattern simple and improve your presentation of the fly by becoming a better caster will bring you results. The club offers members the opportunity to buddy-up with more experienced members and this is a service that will assist you in your fishing. We start by providing a monthly casting clinic, then when you have become relatively proficient, we will arrange for you to be taken out on the Hutt River and be given some guidance on what works.

On Saturday the 24th September I spent 4 enjoyable hours fishing with Ajit in the GJK Fishing competition. Ajit did extremely well catching his first and second fish ever on the Hutt River. It was great to see someone succeed and to hear Ajit say "There **are** trout in the Hutt River". Just for the record I blanked.

At our September club night we had the second part of Dan's presentation on 'Reading the Water' and Mike 'Fishing in Iceland' both of which were warmly received by those present. Next month we are very fortunate to have Bryce Johnston speaking to us in his capacity as CEO of Fish and Game New Zealand. As you will have read in the papers and seen on TV, there are a number of important issues that need to be addressed in regard to the administration and user rights of our freshwater resource. As fisherman we know first hand the changes that are occurring and we should be doing something about it not only because of the impact it has on recreational fishing but also on the wider community. It needs a balanced response and it will be interesting listening to Bryce. Many thanks to John Olds for organizing this.

On the 13th October, Hunting & Fishing is holding an evening titled 'Learn to Fly Fish in one Night' at the shop in Alicetown. I would suggest this is a night not to miss and try and get along to it. There could also be some bargain's to pick up.

Just a note to end on; remember to pay your annual subscriptions as we have a few outstanding. Lets hope the weather and fishing is good for 1 October and the season ahead.

Ross Goodman

October Activities

7-9th Pahiatua trip

10th Club Meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm

16th Casting Clinic – Belmont Domain 10.00am

18th Committee meeting 7.30pm

26th Fly tying – Community House 7.30pm

Club News

Next club meeting

Bryce Johnson, CEO of Fish & Game will be our guest speaker at our October meeting. Bryce's view is generally from a national perspective so members have been asked to prepare questions in advance especially when these may have a local content on which he may need to consult the local Fish & Game representatives. Any last minute questions can be emailed to John Olds, who will pass them on to Bryce before the meeting.

Casting Clinic - This month's casting clinic will be held on Sunday 16 October at Belmont Domain. Be there early, 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.

Fly Tying Meeting – Wednesday 26 October 7.30 p.m. in community meeting rooms off Logan Street.

This month we will tie Scudback patterns and Beetles.

Fly of the month - **Brown Beetle**



Brown beetles will be flying during November around dusk and are a welcome addition to the trout's diet. Fish will take artificials on the surface or slightly submerged.

A useful combination is to fish a small Brown Beetle as point fly (submerged) with a floating caddis or mayfly dry fly on a dropper. A surface swirl, or if the floating fly vanishes, will signal a take by a trout.

Library News

The library is open from 7.00 on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Ajit in the normal way.

Raffle Winners in August

Congratulations to John Rochester for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. Brian Jones took away the box of flies and Krystal Smith won the Hunting and Fishing voucher. Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for 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.

Photo competition

This month's winner is Ajit Jogi who takes away the \$15 Fishscene voucher. His winning photo "A Touch of Green" is on the front cover of of this month's newsletter.

Jeff Wood from Fishscene is the sponsor of the monthly photo competition. Members are encouraged to support our sponsors.

Fish of the month

Congratulations to Bill Harris for his fine 4lb 6oz rainbow taken on the Tongariro.

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

Phone Jim Rainey (06) 382-5507

Kawhatau Valley Road, RD7, Mangaweka

office@greentroutguiding.co.nz

www.greentroutguiding.co.nz

Up-coming club trips

Pahiatua trip 7 – 10 October . We will be fishing the Mangatainoka and Manawatu rivers and staying at the Post Office Hotel in Pahiatua. Cost \$40 per night. Pub meals are available at around the \$20 mark.

Tukituki trip 11 – 13 November. This will be a joint event, hosted by our good friends from the Hastings Angling Club and staying at their club lodge at Patangata. Pub meal on the Friday night followed by a shared BBQ on Saturday night. HVAC members will be buddied up with Hastings members. This will be a very popular trip and numbers are limited to about 10 HVAC members, so get in quick.

All trips are weather dependant, with early bookings essential. Some venues do require a deposit, which should be paid by members directly to the hotel/BB/lodge to secure a bed. Members will be given the opportunity to sign up for club trips at the monthly meetings. To confirm a place on a club trip, email Colin at lewiscrew@paradise.net.nz or Krystal at krystalarrow@gmail.com not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Accommodation details will be sent to participants as necessary.



Trout Talk

Can we champion the demise of grip and grin?

This month a repeat of a subject covered a few months ago by another member and I; the not well understood art of catch and release. Readers will recall that in the June newsletter I wrote a piece on this but I need to say that I do not promote myself as any kind of expert on this. In the last few weeks I have received an email from a member of the club to me in my capacity as Secretary quite rightly reminding us that we need to practice what we preach. This particular member had seen the photos on our website under the heading *“Below are a few photos from members out*

doing what they enjoy". Without exception these photos were "grip and grin" and the member pointed out that the fish were unlikely to be enjoying the experience.

He questioned:

- Do our members really enjoy stopping fish from breathing when trout have their greatest need for oxygen?
- Do our members really enjoy removing protective slime from trout?
- Do our members really enjoy introducing harmful bacteria to trout by handling them?
- Do our members want to risk knocking scales out of fish?
- Do our members want to be seen as a bunch of people for whom getting their photo taken with a fish out of the water is more important than caring for animal welfare?

The thing the committee agreed on was that our photo pages should be updated regularly and this is where you come in:

Please send photos to our webmaster Steve Doughty that reflect the heading of the section and also demonstrate responsible catch and release. A photo that reflects "Members out doing what they enjoy" can be anything from playing a fish to sitting on a river bank with a relaxing cup of coffee. Also note that we have a section entitled "Trip photos". This section was originally set up for club trips but we will also include any trips to other places by our members.

Now, a bit more on catch and release. There is a lot of discussion around how to lift a trout correctly for a photo. This link <https://troutbitten.com/2016/09/05/their-heart-in-your-hands/> takes you to an article that was commented on by Wayne Smith (Smith Creek fishing products) on the TALTAC (Tongariro and Lake Taupo Anglers Club) Facebook page. Wayne admitted that he was unaware of the need to not squeeze fish in the pectoral area behind the gills. The interesting thing about this post was that over 30 members of TALTAC saw this post yet only

three commented on it. So that suggests a real ambivalence towards treating fish correctly. Frankly, catch and release practices around the Taupo fishery are pretty ordinary (as they are in other places) so I shouldn't be surprised. But when I see an article that attempts to answer a question around the best way to lift a trout from the water for a photo my question is:

Why should this question even be asked?

Because the follow up question is:

Why does the angler need to be in the photo?

If it's an ego thing, leave it at home.

If the angler thinks that others may not believe he/she caught the fish if he/she is not in the photo, get over it!

Put your name on your net handle if you need to.

But there are times when an angler decides to take a fish to eat (and there is nothing like a fresh trout especially from a river like the Tongariro). And speaking of the Tongariro there have been times when DOC has encouraged the taking of fish to reduce the population competing for food. But trout are not always good to eat. There is not only pollution to contend with (the Manawatu for example) but also the environment in which the fish live; the papa makeup in parts of the Rangitikei for example gives the fish a muddy taste. If you are going to take a fish, treat it humanely. There are plenty of articles on this (and catch and release) on the internet.

There will be more about responsible catch and release in the months to come as the season gets into full swing and I have asked a couple of knowledgeable club members to contribute to this column.

Just to finish:

\$24.99 + \$7 = \$31.99

A quick look on the internet revealed that this amount (and you may get them cheaper) gets you a knotless bag for your landing net and a pair of

forceps for removing hooks; a cheap price to help make catch and release better for the fish.

GJK Competition Report

By Tomas Fichtner

The GJK competition was held on Saturday 24 September on the Hutt River.



All competitors had some hook-ups and some managed to land some fish too. It was a really great day and I don't think we could have asked for better conditions.

The results of the competition were very tight.

The overall winner was Ian Lawson who managed to land 2 fish measuring 39.7cm and 54.3cm. Congratulations Ian! Close behind was Ajit Jogi who landed 2 fish measuring 54cm and 38cm. Third place was taken by Tim Lee

with one fish of 42cm followed by Toms Fichtner with one fish of 25cm. . Our other four competitors reported that they had some hook-ups but did not manage to land any fish.

Despite this, everyone had a great day out on the water. Many thanks to all those who participated.

Making a Point

By Sparse Hackle (Copied from HVAC Newsletter October 1995)

The attack was swift and accurate. With no more warning than a shifting of his eyes, the big brownie charged my fly and took it into his huge mouth. "Hit him, hit him," cried Jeff urging me to set the hook. The trout had his own ideas though and quickly sped off on a short run, followed by a spectacular leap. Fortunately the fish's quick burst of speed away from me, combined with a very sharp hook, resulted in a solid hook-up. Twenty minutes later I returned a 10lb plus brownie to his watery home.

After releasing the fish, I examined my leader. Not surprisingly, the tippet had been roughened by the old jack's coarse mouth—it would have to be changed before continuing to fish. Proceeding with the inspection, my finger found the point of the hook. Again there were no surprises. The hook was dull. One encounter with the hard cartilage in the jaws of that big brownie and the edge was gone. This whole incident gives emphasis to the importance of fishing with sharp hooks.

Hook sharpening is one of the most basic, yet often overlooked aspects of tackle preparation. There is an old angler saying that states, "Most fish are caught the night before." Next to tying good knots, hook sharpening is one of the most important forms of preparation in which anglers can involve themselves.

When is a hook sharp enough? Most anglers have accepted the "thumb-nail test" as a quick and reliable standard for judging a hook's sharpness.

This simple test will tell you if the very tip of the hook is sharp; but for certain nonsalmonid species a hook needs to slice tissue after the initial penetration.

Chemical sharpening is a fairly common method for production line sharpening of hooks. “Chemical deburring” or “bright dipping” as it is sometimes called, is a process where the outermost layer of steel is removed. This removal eliminates grades, burrs and roughness resulting in a much sharper hook.

The method I use for hook sharpening is quite simple but has proven sufficient for soft mouthed species. Simply make a few strokes with your sharpening device on either side of the barb (including the very tip of the point) at a right angle to the hook. Follow this with a small number of strokes along the underside of the point including the tip and then give it the “thumb-nail test.” If it hangs up, you’re in business.

Sharpening hooks is not a difficult task—the only mystery is why some people neglect doing it. With very little effort you can make whatever point you want.—the only opposition possibly coming from the fish.



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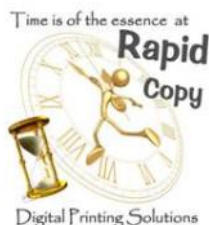
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