



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 432: March 2018



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At the February club meeting (the first for the year) we welcomed four new members; Graham Milestone, Vivienne Carruthers, Jason Bartlett and Iain Wilson to HVAC. It was also heartening to see a good number of visitors on the night and it is hoped that they enjoyed themselves and they too will decide to join the club. The theme of the evening was based around generating interest in the major club trips and also encouraging participation in local events.

Since the February club night, we have held two local events, the first being the Gibbs Shield competition which was held on the Wainuiomata River and was well supported. The second event was the casting / fishing clinic which was held on the Hutt River the following day. Members met at the Belmont Domain as usual. Some elected to concentrate on their casting and stayed at the scout hall for casting tuition. Others who wanted to fish, were buddied up with a more experienced angler and then spent an enjoyable morning stalking the clear waters of the Hutt River.

Before the start of the casting clinic, I had fished a stretch of the river and landed a medium sized fish and spotted a few more holding along the edges. At 10am when we all met up, Peter Parker was keen for a fish, so we buddied up and went back together to the same stretch. We worked our way upstream with me doing the spotting and Peter doing the casting. We saw some good fish but none were hooked. Still though, it was great being out on the water and a good learning experience for both Peter and me. From that point of view, the morning was a great success. We both came knowing that there are plenty of fish there and both feeling encouraged to get back out there and give it another go. Funnily enough, a few days later a new switch rod combo that I had ordered arrived on my doorstep. So off I went back to the same stretch of the river with my new weaponry to swing some wet flies and was rewarded with two more nice fish. So yes, the stalking we had done on the weekend eventually resulted in fish landed a few days later.

I guess the moral of the story is just to get out there and go fishing. I would encourage all members to come along to the monthly casting / fishing clinics to either share their skills with others or learn new ones themselves. The committee has discussed the idea of resurrecting day or half-day trips to the Wairarapa, which would be another opportunity to get out there in the company of other members and spend some quality time fishing.

At the March club night, some of the members who have had particular success recently will be explaining their techniques. It should be an interesting and informative evening. Look forward to seeing you then. All the best.

Chris Kuchel

March Activities

Monday 12 th	Club Night, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 17 th	Doughty Shield 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

Next Club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 12th March 7.30pm

At the March club night, members who have had recent success will explain the equipment and methods they have used. This should be of interest to anglers of all abilities.

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.

Fly Tying Night – Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 28th March 7.15pm

Fly of the Month – Rabbit Lure



The Rabbit fly is a lure that looks like a small fish to trout especially when it is retrieved in a way that suggests it might be injured or struggling to make its way to safety. The rabbit fur ‘wing’ pulses in a very realistic manner that can be irresistible to predatory fish.

The Yellow Rabbit is a favourite fly of former club president Ross Goodman especially when he is fishing on the Rangitikei River.

We are unable to reproduce the following article in the newsletter for copyright reasons but if you enter the URL below in your computer browser you can read an informative piece and watch a tying demonstration by Allan Burgess. The article is published in the online New Zealand fishing magazine [*fishingmag.co.nz*](https://fishingmag.co.nz)

<https://fishingmag.co.nz/freshwater-lures/feathered-lures-for-trout-fishing/rabbit-trout-lure-colours>

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for February

Members are asked to tie a fly using CDC, at home, before this meeting and to submit the fly for judging at the March meeting.

Photo Competition

Congratulations to this month's winner, John Olds. John takes away the \$10 Hunting & Fishing voucher and his winning photo "Evening Riffles" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

December Fish of the Month

Congratulations to Ian Lawson, who caught a 7lb Brown Jack on the Wainuiomata River.



January Fish of the Month

Congratulations to Ian Lawson, who caught a 6lb 5oz Brown Jack on the Wainuiomata River.



January Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Vivienne Carruthers for winning the Green Trout Guiding raffle. Steve Doughty took away the Hunting and Fishing voucher and Ajit Jogi won a fly box.

Club Competitions

March 17 th	Doughty Shield - Kourarau Dam
April 14 th	Burgess Shield - Salt Water, Lake Ferry
May 12 th	GJK Shield - Hutt River

The Doughty Shield competition will be held on the 17th of March and full details of this event including a map will be emailed to all members as an attachment to the March newsletter.

Wairarapa Club Trip Report

Chris Kuchel

On the weekend 27-28 January the Wairarapa trip went ahead. Colin Lewis, Ben Connelly and myself met at the Upper Hutt railway station at 9am on the Saturday morning to plan their strategy for the next 2 days. Unfortunately, Peter Parker had come down with a virus and was unable to make it.

Our first stop was Morrison's Bush. We had expected to see large numbers of campers, but luckily that was not the case. We parked our vehicles downstream from the main camping area and found that we had the river all to ourselves. Colin headed downstream while Ben and I fished the water in front of us. The conditions were perfect for indicator nymphing so that's what we all decided to do. Before long, I heard a splash and looked up to see that Ben had hooked into a good-sized fish doing some aerial acrobatics. The fish, which was obviously a wily resident brown made a beeline for the opposite bank and the safety of the sunken logs along the bank. I put my rod down, pulled out my camera and walked to Ben's spot, hoping to get a picture of what was certainly a very nice sized fish. By this time, Ben had realized that he had a fight on his hands.



He could feel the thumping of the fish but realized that his line had been taken under a snag.



After a minute or so, Ben decided that he was going to land this fish at all costs so he started wading towards the opposite bank and managed to claw his way over the willow branches to a position right above the fish.



Unfortunately, by this time, the fish managed to escape.

So that was an exciting start to the day. We continued fishing, with Ben moving further upstream and me moving a bit further downstream to a nice looking drop off, where I spotted a cruising rainbow quite close to the surface. Thinking positively, I cut off my nymph and swapped it for a home-tied foam stimulator with rubber legs. Sure enough, as the fly landed, the fish raced towards it and took it according to plan. A small but nice 2 pound rainbow. Despite spotting a few more fish, that was all I managed to land in the morning session.

When the 3 of us re-grouped for lunch, Ben said that he spotted his lost fish feeding in exactly the same spot where he had first hooked it. And to top it off, Colin had hooked into the very same fish in the same spot which broke him off as well. So with a combination of brute strength and cunning, that brown continues to live for another day.

After lunch we headed for the Gladstone bridge. Ben went upstream, Colin went downstream but I had spotted a great stretch of Czech nymphing water, so I put away the rod I had used in the morning and swapped over to my 10 foot 3 weight. In the space of an hour I had hooked 5 and landed 3. All rainbows in the 1 to 2 pound range, small but feisty.

By late afternoon we re-grouped then headed to Dakins Road. As the shadows started getting longer, we headed back to the campsite and set up our tents for the night, brewed up a cup of tea and had dinner.

The next morning after breakfast, new member Dave Syms arrived at our campsite. After introductions, we headed off to a spot upstream. The water here was a lot shallower with willows lining the banks – much better suited to traditional indicator nymphing. Dave and I teamed up for the morning and made our way slowly upstream casting into likely looking water and picking up a small rainbow almost by accident. “See that water there Dave...very shallow but always worth a go...and when the indicator goes under....just like that...it might be a fish.....hang on, it is a fish....ha ha, a tiddler but still counts as a fish.....easy as”. We continued upstream with me spotting and Dave casting. A few decent touches but unfortunately nothing landed but good fun all the same.



Back to the cars for lunch, then we headed off to the Waingawa for our final session of fishing for the weekend. The river looked superb but unfortunately there were just too many swimmers in the water, even a long way upstream. And who could blame them. It was a hot sunny day and the deep pools were spectacularly clear and inviting. I was tempted to go for a swim myself. Colin managed to land a nice fish while blind nyming in a run under some willows. Ben spotted fish as well.

So overall, a great weekend. Not a huge number of fish landed but a wide range of water explored with good company

Wainuiomata Competition Report

On Saturday 17 February the competition for the Gibbs Shield was held on the Wainuiomata River. Thomas Fichtner, Steve Doughty, Mike Nansett, Ben Connelly, John Rochester and Chris Kuchel met at the Rimutaka Forest Park at 7.15am in blustery but dry conditions. River levels were very low which meant very low flow rates especially towards the mouth of the river.



However, a good number of fish were sighted cruising the still waters making for some good, challenging fishing.



The deeper pools held fish, particularly along the weedlines. In the morning session, all of the anglers reported the frustration of seeing cruising fish rushing to their dry flies only to be closely inspected then ignored.



However, in the second session, Steve and Thomas had success. They were the only anglers to land fish, one each. Steve reckons his was 2 kilometres long, but on closer inspection, it was re-measured and found to be 44cm, giving him 980 points. Thomas took out the honours for the day with a very respectable fish of 71.5cm (about 6 ½ pounds) and giving him 1530 points.

Gibbs Shield - Wainuiomata

Competitors	Thomas Fichtner		Steve Doughty	
Fish caught	Length of fish	scored points	Length of fish	scored points
#1	71.5	1530	44	980
#2	0	0	0	0

Besides taking out the Gibbs Shield, special thanks must also go to Thomas for organising this competition. He organised access, printed off maps for the competitors and every arranged gifts of appreciation on behalf of HVAC for the land owners. Events like this not only provide great experience for club members but also help strengthen our links with the landowners along the Wainuiomata River who appreciated the professional way the competition had been organised and run.

Open letter to the Club Re Competition on the Wainui River Saturday 17-2-2018

February 20th 2018

To the Secretary

Mr John Olds

Hutt Valley Anglers Association.

Dear Sir,

I, as a fully paid up member of the above Club would like to submit this open letter to the Club and get the Clubs Committee and members vote (members attending the March meeting) on this, I feel under the circumstances this has to be done for the betterment of future Club Competitions.

I and the members that I have talked to would like to know what is the ruling as set out by the Club for its internal competitions (these can be published in our monthly bulletin and also on our web site).

I would like to state unequivocally here and now that I have no axe to grind concerning people who run these competitions I only want the rules cleared up!

The following is an opinion of what transpired on Saturday (I feel that the major part of the following will be the feelings of most of the others involved):-

There were six of us taking part in this competition and only six beats should have been eligible for fishing and two should have been deleted. On the maps supplied there were eight areas (only number 1 to 7 were flagged and numbered, the other area was not numbered or flagged. We only found out later at the catch up when we had finished fishing that there was a number 8 beat (as seen undesignated on page three of maps supplied), No beats were cancelled out before the draw (I feel that due to the wind on the day maybe beats 1 and 2 should have been cancelled out and 7 and 8 used instead. This did not happen, so be it). As far as I could

ascertain we were all on the first six beats for the first two hour fish (no fish caught).

Morning	Afternoon
No 1- me	no 1- Chris
No2- Ben	
No3- Steve	
No4- poss Thomas	No 4 -Steve
No5- Chris	No 5- Me
No6 -Mike	

On the second two hour fish we all went back to beats one to six. At the end of the competition all of us except Mike went back to the entrance to the Forest Park to discuss and find out the results of the day and what had happened. Only two fish were caught, one by Steve, which I knew about because we had been fishing beats 4 and 5, and Thomas stated that he had landed a fish about 750mm in length and around 6 pound (good catch for him) and was basically the winner of the competition (we all accepted this at the time without any thought). Out of curiosity I asked where he had caught this fish and he stated that he had gone down to check out beat 8 and see what it was like for future dates, and this was where he had landed this fish. We all accepted this at the time.

It was only later at home when I was thinking about the day that it struck me that unfortunately for Thomas his fish was not eligible for the competition as it had not been caught on the six beats that everyone else had fished. He had had an advantage over everyone by fishing two virgin beats, the one he was on in the first two hours (possible on beat 4) and then beat 8. The area that he said was beat 8 was not flagged or numbered on the map and as far as I am concerned was not on the draw slips at the start of the day and should not have been because there were only six fishermen. Also there should only be one beat per contestant, not eight (if it was a designated beat and beat seven would have been there too, there would have been a very great chance within the laws of probability that one of the other five guys would have drawn one of these extra beats, this was not so)!

I was not happy about this manipulation of the rules as I understood them and feel very strongly that Steve has to have the honors' of being the winner of the competition. On Sunday I spoke to Chris about this and later that day I and five others received an e-mail regarding this with Thomas explanations (in Blue below). I for one do not accept the explanations as reasons why, and Thomas should therefore forfeit first place and Steve should be declared the winner of this competition. Thomas`s excuses as follows in e-mail from Chris to six members (Mike, Steve, Ben, Ian, Thomas and myself :-

Hi Guys

There has been some speculation about Thomas fishing the incorrect beat in the second session. I've spoken to him to get the facts, which are as follows:

There were 8 official beats, which are shown on the map which was handed out to each competitor. Beat number 8 (Alec Moore, House number 1072) was shown on the map but did not have a red flag next to it, like the other beats. This was an unfortunate oversight which has created confusion.

At the start of the day when beats were drawn, beat 8 was included on one of the pieces of paper, so everyone had an equal chance of drawing that beat. It just so happened that Thomas drew that beat at the start of the day.

Every competitor fished their correct beats and on that basis, Thomas is the winner of the competition with the fish he caught on beat 8

I hope that has cleared the matter up and put it to rest.

Cheers, Chris

I do not accept the explanations as reason for Thomas`s fish to be counted, and in my humble opinion this is why Steve should be declared the winner of this competition. I have spoken to several members of the club and explained what had happened and the majority agree that Thomas cannot enter a fish caught outside the area everyone else at the competition did not fish.

As far as I am concerned there is a principle here that I feel most strongly about (fair play and honesty) and these must be adhered to strongly. I therefore demand that the committee look, discuss this problem immediately and make a ruling, and that all club members should be informed of the outcome for transparency and for the sake of the clubs integrity in running good and fair competitions in the future.

As an aside to this, it was said by Thomas that everyone who entered a competition and did not catch a fish was awarded 100 points for entering. In my humble opinion this should not be so for the reason that as long as you were a member, whether you can fish or not and enter and turned up to every competition you had a very good chance of taking the end of the year cup. This should also be looked at and a decision should be made by the committee.

Yours Sincerely
John Rochester

Response from HVAC Committee 23 Feb 2018

Dear John

Further to your email of 20 February, I am writing to advise you that the Committee has read and examined your complaint and has made a ruling.

You raised 2 issues, namely

1. That Thomas Fichtner did not fish the beats that he selected at random at the start of the competition and therefore the fish he caught should be disallowed.

Prior to the competition, the landowner of beat 7 withdrew his permission to have access his land. However, at the last minute, another landowner Alec Moore, gave his permission to have access across his land, so this was added as beat 8. Beat 7 was therefore not included in the draw, but beat 8 was. At the start of the day, each competitor drew a piece of paper at random. The piece of paper that Thomas drew, nominated beats 4 and

8. Thomas fished beat 4 in the first session and beat 8 in the second session. You may have gained the impression that Thomas had "gone down to check out beat 8 and see what it was like for future dates", but this is not the case. He was fishing a legitimate beat (and also possibly checking it out for future dates). On that basis, the Committee finds that Thomas fished the correct beats and your complaint does not stand.

2. That the number of beats should match the number of competitors and that due to the weather conditions, certain beats should not have been included in the draw. You have also made suggestions for changes to the scoring system.

A competition like this requires a lot of preparation such as contacting land owners, producing and printing maps, producing and printing draw slips etc. This work has to be carried out well in advance of competition day. The competition organiser cannot predict the exact weather conditions on the day, or be sure of how many competitors will actually turn up. Could the system for drawing beats be improved to accommodate these uncertainties? Possibly, and that is something that the Committee will be considering for future competitions. Now that the competitions are underway, any changes to the scoring system would not be able to be considered and possibly implemented until the next competition season.

Under clauses 32 and 33 of the HVAC Constitution, this ruling of the Committee is final and the matter is now closed.

*Sincerely
Chris Kuchel
President HVAC*

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

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