

ECFF Prize winners
31st October, 30 November and 31st December 2007

I have just spent a day on a magnificent Stillwater in the Stormberg; water managed and stocked by the Queenstown Club.

I had the joy of taking my two sons along and introducing a young friend, Tony Mrwebi to Fly-Fishing. Tony had never before used a Fly-Rod, and was completely unfamiliar with the concept. We arrived early and parked the car below the Dam wall in the shade of the Gum trees. I began coaching the three youngsters on the details of rod assembly, line selection and a host of other considerations when fishing a Stillwater. Before they got bored, I sent them off to the spillway with a little net to collect any insects they found in the shallow water there, while I finished kitting up. When I got to the water I was greeted by squeals and shouts of delight. All three were practically swimming! "Look Dad, we've got tadpoles - and look at these little crabs; and what are these long wriggly things with red eyes?" They had collected an array of Dragonfly and Damselfly Nymphs, as well as crabs and tadpoles in various stages of metamorphosis.

We sat down on the dam wall, opened the fly-box and chose a fly for each of the rods, a *taddy* on the intermediate and a lake dragon on the floater. I had hoped that the time we had been occupying in tying on flies had been enough to rest the water! I then lined up two boys on one side of me and the other youngster on the other. We stood, knee deep in the water on the dam wall, each with a rod. I cast, first for one, then for the others. They retrieved under instruction and swapped so that each one had a chance. Within half an hour each one had hooked a fish that had ripped the rod to the horizontal, and left them wide-eyed and yelling loudly for help. The fly had bitten!

Each of them were desperate to learn to cast for themselves, and just wanted to be left alone to land one of these creatures of the deep. When they were tired and frustrated, as all beginner fly-fishers must become, I got up from the grassy bank that had been my shady resting place for the best part of a lazy hour, and took over again. By breakfast time, they were famished. We had tea from the thermos with fresh bread rolls. It was absolutely wonderful, and I felt again as though I was back in my own ignorant youth, feeling the irresponsible joy of fishing on a Saturday morning.

I fished alone 'till lunch time, while they had discovered the old blades of a derelict windmill, and were using them as "butt-plates" to slide down the other side of the grassy wall with glee! We all had a marvellous time.

By that evening young Tony could cast a full eighteen meters unaided, and before we went to bed, he said to me that he'd had "an awesome day" and that he'd be applying to the Queenstown Club for membership! I felt a sense of the deepest satisfaction that a fly fisher can surely feel. I had shared

my passion for the fly. Both my sons and young Tony will, no-doubt, harvest the fruit of that sowing for years to come.

Earlier in the week, amid the daily grind of work, I spotted the long-awaited slip in the pile of letters and bills on my desk. *It* had arrived! The Jackpot on the list of our ECFE prizes for 2007: a magnificent Sage Fly-Rod (with a price tag to match!), November's prize was one I had particular interest in drawing. Well done Stefan! And many thanks to Thalia Thain of The Flyshop for a superb prize well worth waiting for. I had the pleasure of handing this magnificent prize over to Stefan with unbridled satisfaction.

As our year draws to a close, we are happy to say that there are a number of other fortunate Fly-Fishers in the pound seats which will round a fantastic year off very nicely. Check below to see whether you were one of the fortunate few to win this quarter.

Well done to all who have won and our sincere thanks once again to our generous sponsors who have been so and supportive. Without you, our initiative to generate tangible value for members would be feeble indeed. We wish you all the very best for 2008.

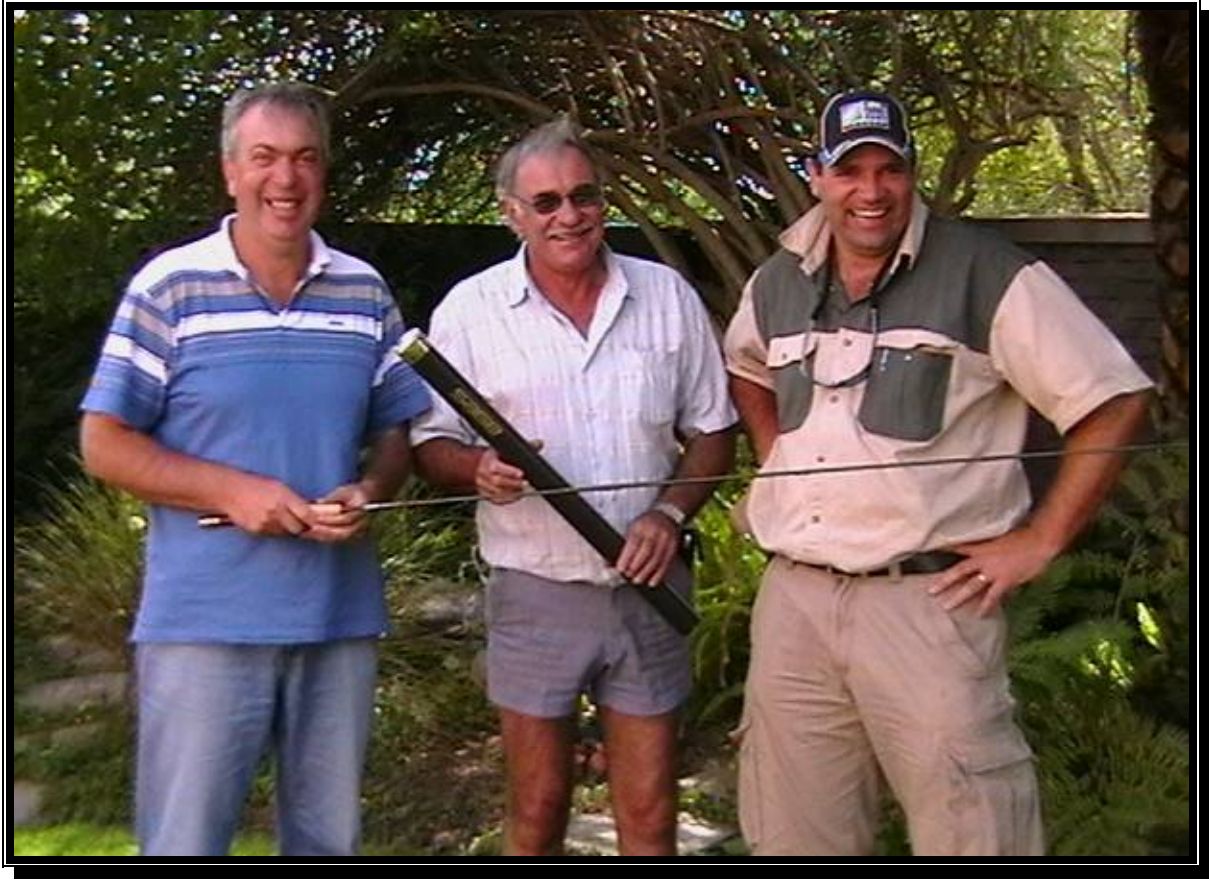
October:

- **Clayton Van der Meer**, membership number 06-0140 has won a free weekend's self catering accommodation (3 nights) for two at Lemietzkloof, Winterberg, courtesy of Charles and Angela Price valued at **R840.00**. In addition, he has won a package of 15 flies, courtesy of Mike Petersen of Hairy Fairy Flies, Grahamstown, to the value of R105.00.
Total prize value: R949.00.
- **Eugene Errol Vincent**, membership number 06-0166, has won a whopping free long weekend's accommodation (3 nights) and one day's guided fishing for two on selected rivers at Rhodes, courtesy of Fred Steynberg of Linecasters, valued at **R3 860**. In addition he has won a package of 15 flies, courtesy of Mike Petersen of Hairy Fairy Flies, Grahamstown, to the value of **R105.00**. **Total prize value: R3 965.00**
- **Terrance Wormald**, membership number 06-0158, has bagged a free day's guided fishing for two on the Swartkops River in Port Elizabeth, courtesy of Chris Schoultz, valued at **R1000.00**. Terrance will also receive a package of flies courtesy of Mike Petersen of Hairy Fairy Flies, Grahamstown, to the value of **R105.00**. **Total prize value: R1 105.00.**

November:

- **Brian Clark**, membership number 06-0022, has won a free weekend's accommodation and fishing for two at Pine Grove, Queenstown, courtesy of Peter Cloete, Pine Grove and QFFC, valued at **R800.00**. Brian will also shortly receive a package of 15 flies, courtesy of Mike Petersen of Hairy Fairy Flies, Grahamstown, to the value of **R105.00**. **Total prize value: R905.00.**

- **Stefan Cloete**, membership number 06-0065 has hit the jackpot and landed the latest Sage 59-4 Z-axis 5wt 4pc 9` Fly-rod (replaces the XP range), with unconditional lifetime guarantee valued at a hefty **R5 500.00**, courtesy of Thalia Thain, The Flyshop. Stefan will also shortly receive a package of 15 flies to nicely finish off his prize, courtesy of Mike Petersen of Hairy Fairy Flies, Grahamstown, to the value of **R105.00**. **Total prize value: R5605.00.**



Stefan Cloete holds his new SAGE Z Axis 5wt 4pc, courtesy of Thalia Thane

Johan Van Jaarsveld, Chairman of the Queenstown FFC and Martin Fick, ECFF Chairman share the moment.

- **Gideon Naude**, membership number 06-0042, has won a free weekend's accommodation for two at Thrift in the Winterberg (3 nights), courtesy of Angela Price, Swartkei Fishing. The prize is valued at R420, and in addition, Gideon will shortly receive a package of 15 flies, courtesy of Mike Petersen of Hairy Fairy Flies, Grahamstown, to the value of **R105.00**. **Total prize value: R525.00**

Well done to you all! May the year ahead bring many fly-fishing joys, and may I challenge you to "Take a Kid Fly-fishing". The future of the sport depends on *you* in this respect. You may find it more enjoyable than you thought!

Yours in the Backing,

Martin Fick (Chairman ECFF)