

NOMADS TIDE

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

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Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Safe Travels over the Festive Season from the Nomads Committee 2024.



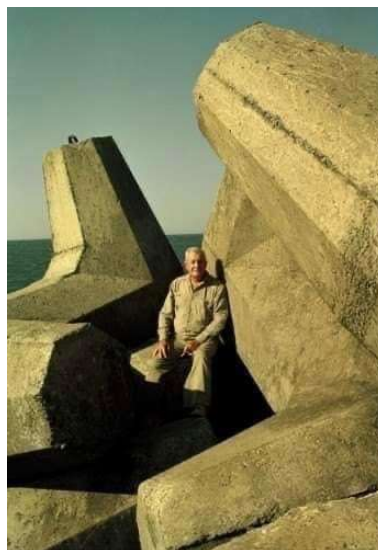


SADSAA CALENDAR 2025.

MONTH	DATE	TOURNAMENT	VENUE	HOST
JANUARY				
FEBRUARY				
	19 th - 22 nd February 2025	SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish Interprovincial	Sodwana Bay	SSBC
MARCH				
	14 th - 16 th March 2025	Durban Ski Boat Club Interclub	Durban	DSBC
	16 th - 22 nd March 2025	Tuna Challenge 2025	St Francis	PSFSB
	20 th - 22 nd March 2025	Zululand Interclub	St Lucia	SLSBC
	20 th - 23 rd March 2025	Shelly Beach Gamefish Classic	Shelly Beach	SBSBC
APRIL				
	4 th - 6 th April 2025	Umhlanga Festival	Umhlanga	USBC
	11 th April 2025	SADSAA Council Meeting	Johannesburg	
	20 th - 26 th April 2025 (or 4-10 May)	SADSAA Tuna Nationals	Hout Bay	ABC
	25 th - 28 th April 2025	Durban Festival	Durban	DSBC
	29 th April - 3 rd May 2025	Tuna Masters	Hout Bay	ABC
	28 th April - 2 nd May 2025	SADSAA Junior Bottomfish Nationals	Port Elizabeth	PEDSAC
MAY				
	16 th May - 18 th June 2025	Shelly Beach Interclub	Shelly Beach	SBSBC
	20 th - 24 th May 2025	SADSAA All Coastal Interprovincial	Knysna	KDSAC
	23 rd - 25 th May 2025	SADSAA Gamefish Interprovincial	Umhlanga	USBC
	end May 2025	SADSAA Gamefish Nationals	St Lucia	SLSBC
JUNE				
	13 th - 16 th June 2025	SADSAA All Stars	Richards Bay	MSSBC
	13 th - 15 th June 2025	Tuna Interprovincial	Shelly Beach	SBSBC
	30 th - 4 th July 2025	SADSAA All Inland	Sodwana Bay	MDSAA
	30 th - 4 th July 2025	SADSAA Junior Gamefish Nationals	Sodwana Bay	MDSAA
JULY				
	9 th - 12 th July 2025	SADSAA Junior Bottomfish Interprovincial		OBC
	later in July: TBC	SADSAA Light Tackle Billfish Interprovincial	Sodwana Bay	NGDSAA

AUGUST				
	8 th - 10 th August 2025	Junior & Senior Garrick Release	Richards Bay	RBSBC
	13 th - 16 th August 2025	SADSAA Bottomfish Interprovincial	Durban	PYC
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER	-	-	-	-
	13 th - 17 th October 2025	SADSAA Light Tackle Billfish Nationals	Sodwana Bay	NGDSAA
	26 th October - 1 st November 2025	SADSAA Bottomfish Nationals	Richards Bay	MSSBC
NOVEMBER				
	17 th - 21 st November 2025	SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish Nationals	Sodwana Bay	MDSAA
DECEMBER				

The History on “The Dolos”



This is about a South African invention that is still regarded as streets ahead of anything else devised for its purpose. But as is often the case in such matters, the person responsible for its development has not always received the credit deserved, which went to another.

We are talking about the dolos, those huge and oddly named concrete creations used to absorb and dissipate the energy of the seas, which are mostly found at the entrances to ports and harbours, although they also find use elsewhere where scour protection is required.

Up until the invention of the dolosse, large rocks and blocks of concrete were the most common means of providing protection against the notorious waves of South Africa's eastern coastline. But even these massive and heavy objects could be washed away or moved about, and what was needed, was relatively inexpensive but would resist and reduce the force of the waves while remaining in position.

The man generally given most of the credit for inventing the dolos was a harbour engineer at the Port of East London named Eric Merrifield who served at the Eastern Cape port as the chief engineer from 1961-1976. Yet the facts are somewhat different in that Merrifield had little right to such a claim, other than that he, was in charge of the engineering office at the time and had signing power for its development. It was, however, his request that set in motion the invention of something that has gone into use across the world as the most successful means ever of absorbing and controlling the energy produced by waves pounding away at natural or man-made areas of coastline.

Strangely, neither the inventor nor the port engineer sought to take out patents for what resulted from that request, although Merrifield was later to be granted, and he accepted, awards and recognition for which he was not really entitled. It appears that both men believed that, as they were employees of the state at the time, they were not entitled to reward for the invention. What a refreshing thought!

One day in 1963 Merrifield entered a discussion with his draughtsman about designing a structure made from concrete that would be capable of protecting the East London Harbour breakwater from the battering waves.

The draughtsman, 28-year-old Aubrey Kruger, was a modest, quiet local man who rode to work every day on a red Vespa scooter from his home in Cambridge, one of East London's suburbs. It was usual in those days at East London for people to return home at lunchtime each day and so, when Aubrey Kruger returned home by scooter that day the first thing, he did was to commandeer his wife Daphne's broomstick, from which he cut three pieces of wood which he nailed together in the shape of an H' with one twisted leg.

His daughter Sandra says she can remember her mother being rather angry and having to shoo a chicken out of the kitchen with a shortened broomstick.

She says her father based his idea on the dubbeltjie thorn. After lunch he returned to work where he placed the wooden model on Merrifield's desk. The idea was that the dolosse, which would be cast in unreinforced concrete, would be placed in front of

and on top of each other along the breakwater where they would interlock and, as waves broke against them, would fit even tighter while still allowing some of the waves to pass through the structures, thus weakening their force.

According to Sandra, the name dolos came from her grandfather, Joseph Kruger, who was a carpenter working at the harbour dry dock at the time. He saw his son and others in the office playing with small models and asked "Wat speel julle met die dolos?" - dolos being the Afrikaans for knucklebones often used by sangomas and herbal doctors when divining. Children also used to play with these knucklebones.

The Kruger family still has an original model of the dolos made by Aubrey using plaster of paris and left to dry in the garden. Aubrey Kruger's son Lance retains this model in his possession.

The drawings for the first dolos were completed in 1963, based on the shape devised in wood by Aubrey Kruger. As port engineer Merrifield was responsible for overseeing the following year, 1964, the first dolos was laid on the port breakwater. Kruger enjoyed seeing the development of his invention which resulted in much excitement in the family. At the end of 1966 Kruger was transferred to Durban and was given a copy of the amendment to the design dated July 12, 1966, drawn by Aubrey Kruger and signed by Mr Merrifield, as a farewell gift from the East London office. project and signing off all plans.

The family lived happily in Durban for seven years and it was only after the Shell Award was given to Merrifield in 1972 and a Gold Medal award by the Associated Science and Technology Societies of South Africa for the invention of the dolos that Kruger felt saddened by his not being mentioned for his part in the design.

Subsequent articles and reports written about the dolos and giving credit to Merrifield caused much pain and hurt to both Kruger and his family. Kruger remained a man of few words who was never confrontational and preferred his own company, says his daughter Sandra. She says her father considered the invention to be the property of the South African Railways & Harbours (now Transnet) and would never have written papers about it, let alone have tried to have them published. "It was not in his nature to rock the boat," she says.

Dolosse are in use across the world, either in their original shape or in variations but following similar principals. They can be found reinforcing the breakwaters of ports and harbours in the US, in South America, in Asia and in parts of Europe. There's even one of many thousand at Port Ngqura festooned in the colours of the South African flag.

In 1973 Kruger and his family returned to East London where he left the employ of the SAR&H and started a tyre retreading company. He later sold the business and returned to work as a draughtsman for an architectural company and then as a truss designer for a timber company. In 1998 he retired on a state pension to a beach cottage and spent most of his time fishing and doing woodwork. Following a stroke in 2010 he and his wife moved to a flatlet on his son Lance's property in the suburb of Vincent, East London.

On July 19 this year, two days before his 81st birthday, Aubrey Kruger died of cancer, being survived by his wife, Daphne, his children, Gary, Sandra, Ross and Lance, and six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Not long before he died, his family was able to show him the newly minted sterling silver coins of a R2 crown and a 2½ cent “tickey” from the South African Mint in its South African Invention’s theme, imprinted with the geometric shape of the dolos, as well as three miniature silver dolosse by the South African Mint, which commemorated his involvement in the invention.



2024 Billfish 15000

Boat: Bulldog

Skipper: Kevin Allardyce

Crew: Alex Lockyer, Gus Pinker, Neil Maloney



After much anticipation we arrived at Phumalani lodge, Sodwana, on Saturday 9 November. The rest of the day was spent discussing the week ahead (and helping Gus) followed by a braai.

Sunday was spent preparing the boat and equipment, and lunch at “Mseni”. Sunday evening opening of the competition and skippers briefing.

Monday morning arrived, and everyone was up bright and early, ready for what the week had in store for us. After an uneventful launch and waiting on the backline for the blessing of the fleet, lines down were called, and we were confident that we had a good spread. We fished off the point and lighthouse, but with no luck. My proverbial sea legs could not be found anywhere, and it was a rough day for me. A nice braai and team talk on Monday night and we were ready for the rest of the week.

On Tuesday morning, bright and early, we were on the beach and ready to launch. After a small hiccup we had another good launch, and we were safely on the backline again. Kevin stuck to the plan, and we started working the point again. Kevin and Gus were happy with the spread, and once again, the waiting game

began. At 06-32 the port long with a Hawaiian breakfast lure screamed, and I was shoved into the chair and had the harness on, no time to even think about hesitating. The guys had all the other lines out of the water, and it was game on. Kevin confirmed that it was a blue marlin, I couldn't believe this was actually happening. Kevin, Gus and Alex shouted instructions and motivations throughout the whole 1 hour 47 minutes, (I was last shouted at like that back in 1985 during basic training). This beautiful fish fought all the way and was successfully released. This is definitely a team effort, and I will be forever grateful to have had this opportunity with this great skipper and crew. Most certainly an experience of a lifetime!



With no time to waste, lines were back in the water, and we started working our way back to the point, we had ended up past 9 mile during the fight. About an hour later, the China line with an Islander lure ran, and Gus was in the chair. After a short while, the fish was at the boat, a very nice sailfish. The fish was safely and successfully released, and we were all ecstatic, we were a contender in the tournament!



A short while later, lines back in the water, and back at the point, a reel screamed ! Alex was up, we brought in the lines and got ready for what was to follow. Unfortunately, the fish came off the lure! We were disappointed but full of hope for the days to come.

Tuesday night we were lying 5th in the tournament and feeling on top of the world.



Wednesday morning after another good launch, we were firing on all cylinders and working hard, changing the spread a few times. The day was eventful, and we had 2 more hook ups. Gus lost his fish close to the boat, and Alex's fish jumped and snapped the line. Heart breaking to say the least. We dropped down to 7th place in the tournament.

Thursday was a blowout, and a few repairs were done.



Friday arrived and we were back on the beach again, we had to make some fish stick! Another good launch and game on, getting the spread right and working the point again. A reel screamed again, Gus was back up, lines brought in. The marlin was wild, and it seemed like the water was exploding around him the way he was thrashing around! `SNAP`, the line went slack, and the marlin was gone, he had broken the leader! We continued to fish hard until we had lines up at 15.00! We had definitely given our best, but it wasn't to be. We ended up 11th in the tournament, and I am proud to have fished on Bulldog in this prestigious tournament, and to have done so well!

Next up, Rosebowl, 2025!

Neil Maloney.

Protea Angler – Mark Cockcroft

Dominican Republic



On Sunday 6 October 2024, three very excited Proteas boarded a United Airways flight to Newark on route to the 83rd International Light Tackle Tournament Association (ILTTA) billfish competition in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The team, Charles du Plessis (Shelly Beach and Natal), Mark Cockcroft and Wade Martin (both Nomads and SGDSAA), were capped and sent on their merry way with best wishes from friends and family, at a formal ceremony the Friday before.

After a quick transit stop in Newark we headed to a very warm and humid Punta Cana. The heat and humidity hit us like a wall as we exited the airport. Of course, before the hotel shuttle was out of Terminal A, we had to arrange a beer stop even if the ride to the Sunscape Coco hotel was a short one. In fact, the ride was two beers long.

The rest of Monday and Tuesday were spent preparing rods and reels, spooling the line for the three practice days that lay ahead. Wade had arranged the practice boat, "Teaser" and that evening, we met the captain and crew of our practice boat and finalized arrangements for the early start the next day. Angelito, (captain) was no stranger to Wade or Mark having fished against him at previous ILTTA's and hired him in Puerto Rico two years earlier.

At the risk of boring the readers with intricate details of each day I have decided to base this report rather on the type of fishing employed on these boats and in these waters.

Essentially the competition would be a marlin competition on 30lb tackle. The target species for the time of year is blue marlin with the chance of a white marlin. Sailfish have not been seen for some time in the area and have their own season. All three of us were using Phenix 7ft medium heavy rods. Mark and Wade were geared with Shimano Talica BFC 20s and Charlie had "Alutecnos" reels. Keep this in mind. Whilst these rods performed very well, I believe they are better suited for sailfish angling. They are a little light for marlin in my opinion.

Being a 30lb tournament, it is classified as heavy tackle by IGFA so instead of 1:3:1m terminal tackle used for 20lb line class, permitted leaders were 2:6:2m. Our wind-on were a choice of 100lb, 130lb and 150lb, generally with chartreus or bright orange Dacron that would be easily visible by the skipper on the bridge. The importance of bright coloring is so that the captain who acts as a competition judge can see when the leader is tipped or when the wireman grabs it.



Baits comprise of ballyhoo aka half beaks, rigged with a chin weight, wax cotton and a 6/0 to 8/0 circle hooks. The baits, circle hooks and 1m snoot are all provided by the boat, in practice and in competition. It is the angler's choice if he wishes to put small slammers, or slightly larger chuggers, or even a bird on the line. As it turned out, the fish were coming up on the teasers and due to the small size of the bare ballyhoo, chuggers became a must to give the bait size that could be seen by the fish in the turbulent water behind the boat.

This brings us to the set up. There are three anglers from different countries on each boat, each allowed to have one rod in the water. A second rod is in the bait station holder rigged in case needed. The fishing positions are left rigger, flat (or middle) and right rigger. Generally, the boats ran 1 or 2 dredges subsurface and 1 teaser on each out rigger on the surface. The angler on the flats owns the teasers with the out-rigger baits at least 10m behind the teasers.



Positions on the boat change every 30 minutes.

Anglers generally stand rod in hand, reels in free spool, ready to feed the fish if the fish if it hits the outriggers, while the guy on the teasers is also ready, rod in hand, ready to move between the two teasers depending on where the fish comes up. The captain on the fly deck, has an incredible advantage being high up and generally sees the fish long before the deckies or the anglers, even fish coming up on the longer riggers. When he sees a fish on the teasers, he will call "left teaser" or "right tease" and the angler on the flats can move to that teaser. Once ready, the captain will pull the teasers in, leaving the bait in the path of the fish. Once the fish takes the bait, the angler will free spool for a short period before engaging up the drag and holding on.

The free-spool period is general (for sailfish) about 4 to 5 seconds. We soon found out that this was too long. Due to the aggressive bite of these marlin, the strike was as quick as 1, 2, 3 jam. However, a lot of the strikes depend on the feel.

During our practice days, we had a number of occasions when more than one marlin came into the spread. On one occasion, I was on the right rigger and three fish came up on the teasers. Wade was on the flats and trying to entice at least one onto his bait. During this time my bait was hit and after the hook up the fish headed for horizon. Meanwhile, Wade continued his pursuit and all of a sudden Charlie's bait was hit out of the left rigger. The pandemonium that goes with a fish on the teasers continued and both hooked fish were stripping line. Sadly, the bite went cold on the teasers and the captain now concentrated on the two hooked fish. Because mine was hooked first I had priority. After about 30min, I gauged the fish to be about 25m below the boat. However, in the interim, Charlie had almost been spooled. We decided to chase his fish and free spool mine. Once Charlie had gained back some line a 'conflab' took place behind me and the next thing I heard Wade commentating a video something to the effect of: "Charlie has tied his rod to a life jacket and there it goes". A \$1000 rod and \$1000 reel were dropped overboard.

My fish was by now just into the braid so I knew it approximately 200m away and the pressure was on to get my fish in pronto so we could hunt for the life jacket and land Charlie's fish. About 15 minutes later my fish was released. Fortunately Wade and the deckie had kept an eye on the life jacket. To Charlie's visible relief, it was found quite quickly. Once back on board, it was Charlie's turn to sweat as he recovered 600m of braid and 200m of top shot.

At the end of the three practice days, I had released 3 blue marlin, Charlie 1 and unfortunately despite only a few opportunities, Wade could not open his account.

The competition was tough fishing. There were some fish caught each day by the fleet but in my view the very slow fishing was a direct correlation to the coincidental full moon. The Protea team blanked for the first three days. It was only on the last day of competition that Charlie managed to get one early, putting him in 34th place and later in the day I released a blue giving me 42nd position.



In all a very enjoyable team vibe, a great location and a great spirit. We battled until the final whistle, but as fishing goes, if you don't get the opportunities, it does not matter how well prepared you are or how determined you might be to succeed, Neptune has the last laugh.

Mark Cockcroft.

Nomads Fundraising

Emperors Palace

25 October



On Friday evening 25 October 2024 the Club held a fundraising event at the Emperors Palace Barnyard Theatre. In total, 70 Tickets was taken up by members and their partners and friends.

Everyone that attended had a great Joll and danced and sang their hearts out together with the performance of the cast. Long live the legends of music, through their songs as will the Legends



Elvis was in the House



Some of the Girls having a Jol



And so was Wade and his mates



Fundraising Auction

Reserve price

25 October 2024

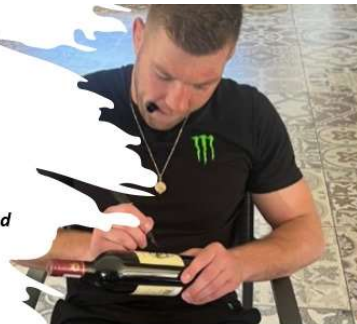
Exclusively for this fundraiser and Autographed
by

Dricus "Stillknocks" du Plessis
Middleweight Champion of the
World.

1.5 L Rupert and Rothchild Classique
Signed by the Champ

"Want hulle weet noq steeds nie wat ons weet
nie"

Authentication by Dricus du Plessis



As always Wade stepped up to be the Auctioneer and put up his own show to auction off the prize @R10 500.



The Fundraiser proved to be a great success and something to be considered on a regular basis due to the amount of effort and organisation.

Thanks to all who attended and for those members that could not attend but made their Donation in any way.

The KP Reel – a South African Legend

The “KP”, a legendary reel in the South African fishing industry. Many anglers along our coastline began their fishing careers with a KP in hand. KP Scarborough reels began being manufactured in the late 1950s by Keith Palmer, or more commonly known as “KP”.




Over the years these reels have been used by anglers to target an array of different species, from small Shad (Bluefish in the rest of the world) to Marlin. With the 1:1 ratio of the reel, your pulling power is second to none and will out pull any of your Saltiga or Stella with ease!



There's just one problem, there is no drag system... the drag is your hand or belly...which can become quite painful when you start getting smashed up knuckles from the handles or the number 11 burnt into your hand if you hook up to that dream fish.

KP FISHING REELS
The Rolls Royce of Scarborough reels



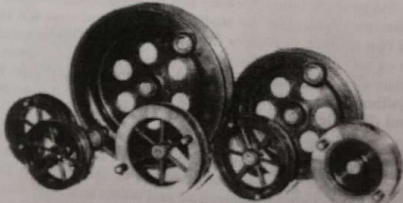
"KP" LEGENDARY FISHERMAN & REELMAKER

Keith Palmer legendary fisherman affectionately know as "KP" passed away at the age of 82. He started turning solid wooden Scarborough reels commercially in 1956 in Bazley Natal South Coast. He went on to design a spoked reel which was moulded in fibreglass and laminated with hard wood. These were available from 1970.

Due to the simplicity of the design and the durability of the handmade parts, there are many fishermen today who have "KP" reels which have been passed down to them by their fathers or grandfathers.

The famous "KP" Scarborough reels are still manufactured today in Umkomaas by his family, who are keeping the legend alive.

Quote: "My first KP was a six inch solid that gave me great pleasure (once I got past the casting) and my cupboard was soon full of them. There can be no greater feeling than angling a good fish one-on-one with a KP. Thank you KP." Rod Haestier.



Although many people have used KPs for targeting game fish, they are more typically used for bottom fishing and deep dropping. They are so widely used for bottom fishing along our coast that you can go as far as saying you won't find a commercial line fisherman along the KwaZulu Natal coast of South Africa using anything other than a KP.

There is quite an art to using a KP properly which many around the world would have never learned. You are almost guaranteed to get a few overwinds and sore knuckles the first few times you use one.

How To Use a KP Reel

There's nothing modern about the methods and tackle used when it comes to fishing with a KP. You have to go really old school in the style of rod... I'm sure you all know what I mean by this... those ancient fairly long and very flimsy fiberglass rods with really short butt sections. One of those rods that when you pull the tip, it bends all the way to the butt almost immediately... yep those are them. Being a 1:1 ratio reel your drag is your hand, and when that fish makes a quick turn for the rocks to break you off you need your rod to have as much give as possible so that you have time to react on the reel else you literally won't have any knuckles left afterward, or even sometimes you end up breaking the handles off the reel.

As I mentioned previously, bottom fishing and deep dropping is often the most common method used by anglers with KPs. This is often done with your standard “Christmas Tree” bait trace which can be altered slightly depending on your targeted species.

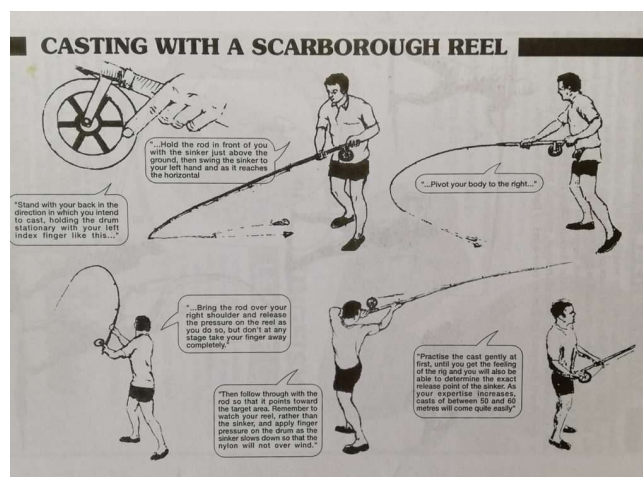
For example for the commercials mostly targeting small reds, they could use up to 15 hooks per trace. Whereas when targeting things such as Dagga Salmon (Jew Fish for many) you’d go for a 1-2 hook trace and then for targeting the Tropical Yellowtail (Kingies) you will often opt for a 1 hook running trace because of its gamefish nature of feeding you want to let him swim for a bit before feeling the weight of the sinker so he doesn’t drop the bait before you can set the hook.

Jigging with a KP Reel

Another very common method used by anglers with KPs is very similar to “slow pitch” jigging but a bit older fashioned and less technologically advanced. This method makes use of a very basic looking “Slow pitch” jig basically...its plain center-weighted silver-coated lead spoon, but in the olden days it used to be a solid led spoon which you had to scrape with a knife to give it the shine you need...bit of a pain to do that so most guys have opted for silver-coated version. This method not only makes use of a similar lure to “Slow Pitch” jigging, but the rod action is also very similar, with your general short winds and long vertical pulls in-between. This method with a KP is known as “Whipping” or “Whip Spooning”.

Now although the above two methods could be quite tricky for people who have never fished like that before... after a few go’s you catch on fairly quickly... but the third and final way people use a KP is casting, which back in the day before spinning reels were a thing this was one of the only reels people were able to use to cast with so it was a common occurrence.

Although nowadays there are only a handful of people who catch onto this method... if you saw someone casting one of these you’d probably stand there and wonder how many beers the guy has had because of the casting action he’ll be using...there really is a very unique way of throwing them and I to this day still am not able to throw one properly...



A LIFE OF FISHING AND BOATING BY COLIN GREEN



My family has always been boating people and my first memories are of spending Sunday waterskiing at Germiston Lake. In 1964 the family built a wooden 21 ft Fin Anderson ski boat with 2x 40 Roots motors. This started a number of Marlin fishing holidays at Paradise Island in Mozambique. Between 1970 and 1974 we moved down south to Coconut Bay near Guinjata, and I was allowed to accompany my dad and grandfather and caught my first game fish, mainly Cuda and Yellowfin Tuna. In 1975 we moved to Sodwana Bay as the war in Mozambique was hotting up and I spent 2 Christmases there catching game fish, the best being a Cuda of 12 kg. In 1997 saw a shift from boats to Hobie Cats and the family moved down to Knysna for the December holidays. I spent many pleasant hours fishing on the rocks with my dad and brother catching Black Tail and Bream.

I finished school in 1979 and started my military training in 1980 with the Military Police and in 1981 was selected for pilot training in the air force. I qualified in 1982 and flew Harvard's, Impalas, dc3 and dc4 and flew until 1988 when I left the air force to join the Family Company.

In 1984 I accompanied my father on a fishing trip to Mauritius to catch Marlin. On the first day I caught a 80kg Blue Marlin and 3 days later caught a bus of a blue marlin that weigh 310 kg. A memory to cherish as my dad passed away soon after our trip.



From 1988 to 1998 I spent most holidays at Plettenburg Bay, sailing and the odd day out fishing with my uncle on a 16,6 King Cat. We caught mostly bottom fish and tried for the odd Garrick, but it was unsuccessful. I then tried rock fishing at Port ST. Johns with Mike and Ian van Zyl and caught a number of Kob and Shad. Many nights were spent on the rocks fishing with Penn 49 and Jig masters and a Coleman paraffin lamp for light.

In 2000 saw the opening up of Mozambique to visitors and Ian Van Zyl and myself traveled to Zavora and Coconut Bay where we started game fishing off a rubber duck. We had some great catches of Cuda, Yellowfin tuna and Dorado but lost a few Sailfish by not knowing the technique. I bought my first boat in 2002 and joined Nomads to learn more about fishing for billfish.

I caught my first Sailfish in December 2003 at Coconut Bay and was hooked. To learn more, I traveled to Kenya in 2004 and 2005 and caught 11 sailfish, learning a great amount and was ready to fish against the best in Nomads. My first Nomads closed was in 2006 held at Zavora. Reel Screamer was the smallest boat with a beginner crew. We released the 1st Sailfish on day 1 and followed up with a 2nd on day 4. Day 5 was slow going and no sailfish were caught by us caught 2 nice sized Cuda that boasted our lead to win the competition against teams like Denwa, Techilla Shela, My Dream and Ivanhoe.

My total billfish catches are 21 Sailfish, 4 Marlin 1 black 2 blue 1 striped. As the skipper of Reel Screamer, I have caught and released 23 sailfish and 7 Marlin for other anglers and spent many hours teaching my techniques to others. My greatest joy is to watch a youngster fighting a jumping Sailfish and to release it healthy back into the ocean.

I joined the committee of Nomads in 2006 and have served as Safety Officer, financial officer and Chairman as well as Southern Gauteng safety officer. At present I belong to Nomads and Mapelane Ski Boat club and spend most of the time fishing with my son Sean. I have owned 3 boats a 16 ft mono, a 16,6ft King Cat and 17ft King Cat all named "REEL SCREAMER", named after my lovely wife Jill.



To my family for all the support and to Sean Green, Mike Green, Ian van Zyl and Mark Cockcroft who have fished with me on many occasions and enjoyed many hours in each other's company on and off the water sharing a beer. To my friend Sean Aspden from Mapelane who is trying to teach me to game fish, don't give up, I will get there ...one day.



Tight line to all Nomads members. Thank you for being such a great group of People.



Regards Colin Green

HEAVY TACKLE

SADSAA

BILLFISH NATIONALS



18 - 22 NOVEMBER 2024

Hosted By Mpumalanga Deep Sea Angling Association

*Mpumalanga
Deep Sea Angling Association*



*Mpumalanga
Diep See Hengel Assosiasie*

SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish Nationals

Chrisjan Jansen

What a great honour to be selected as representative of your province on National level.

When that Niel called me, to congratulate me in being successful on my nomination, the first thing that came to my mind was, who will be my team members. I knew that that could be a “make or break” in more than one way.

For the year 2024 we had an all-Nomads team. This is surely something to be proud of. A force to recon with: Guy Pinker, Martin de Wit, Chrisjan Jansen and Kevin Allardyce (Captain) all representing Southern Gauteng at Nationals.



I left home on Thursday and arrived at Sodwana on Friday morning. Both Kevin and Gus were still partaking in the Bill Fish 15 000. This contributed to some meaningful information that they gathered that week with the rest of their team.

Niel and Alex were well received.

We were fortunate enough to have had two solid days to rig, re-rig and sharpen our hooks.

Our set-ups were done on Saturday. As always, we had a great time supporting the Springbok rugby team with their match against England. As good Springbok supporters should do, we loved celebrating with the Springboks their victory over England.

Wade came to hand out the prizes sponsored by Fire-Quip. It was great catching up with him. He joined us until Sunday evening.

On Sunday, prior to the opening ceremony, we sharpened the hooks and did the final checks.

It was a great evening and surely a special event to celebrate with Guy Pinker who got his first cap. Dave Martin took part in a Masters team. Another Nomads member to be proud of.

On Monday the ocean came alive. It felt like everyone, except us, were on the score board.

Tuesday was a blow out. We attended the “gees – evening.” Quintin Olivier had a proper demonstration of how to reel a fish in and needless to say that he won the evening festivities.

Wednesday and Thursday were plain hard work on fishing. Strip baits, pitch bait rigged and ready, halfbeaks in islanders and sharpened hooks. To no avail. We had a couple of interested Bills over the two days but unfortunately, due to various reasons, nothing to get us on the score board yet.



Thursday evening, Martin de Wet received a message from a SADSAA selector. The selector was going to join us the following day on the boat.

As always, Gus was up at 3h10 and we all were woken with a cup of coffee. Once we have launched, we started working like a “f*cking machine” to get the lures out.

I positioned myself on “Bull Dog’s” fly bridge. I was enjoying the privilege to fish with good friends while observing the spread. I came down from the fly bridge and Martin, Gus and I were constantly watching the spread. Kevin was working the 400 – 600 m depth of the point.

While totally relaxed, I saw the following: From starboard side what I can only describe as Eben Etzebeth charging an English backline player. Similarly, our

Starboard short had no chance by the time we got up. Our team spirit has kicked in. Gus and Martin cleaned the deck “like a f*cking machine.” I took out the rod and had to thread the rod with Martin. All went well and I was in the chair. The fish came closer after a while but ran three more times when it got close.



The fourth time the fish was tired enough and Martin grabbed the leader like a “f*cking machine.” He “leader” the fish and we as a team got our Blue Marlin.

This was not the result we have hoped for, but our team worked tirelessly. Our spirit and understanding for one another was noticeable.

Kevin, thank you for putting our team on the fish. It has been a great honour and pleasure fishing with you all.

Until next time.

Yours in fishing.

Chrisjan Jansen.

Protea Angler - Wade Martin

83rd International Light Tackle Tournaments Association – Dominican Republic 2024



For most competitive anglers reaching the pinnacle of your sport is a dream, that is viciously pursued, and this was no different for me. After putting in the years of dedication and effort, learning by trial and error and doing your utmost to master your craft, this dream was obtained when I was called up to represent my country at the 2024 - 83rd ILTTA in the Dominican Republic.

After learning my teammates were Charles Du Plessis & Mark Cockcroft that are great friends of mine, this just elevated the whole experience, the excitement was almost fathomable.



The prep had been done, the honour of being capped for by my father, Dave Martin and standing next to my mates on stage in the green and gold for my 1st cap had come and gone it was time to get down to business and do what we do best. The departure date had arrived, and we were off to the DR, a venue neither of us had ever fished before.

The excitement of possibly ticking off 3 new species off my bucket list, being the Atlantic Blue Marlin, Atlantic Striped Marlin and Atlantic Sailfish, was never far from my mind and a hot topic amongst the three of us.

After touching down in a hot and humid DR, after almost 27hrs of travel it was time to hit the pool and refresh the body with some “doctored waters” and ice-cold Cuba Libre’s which were enjoyed with great enthusiasm.

The next day was an off day and tackle prep was the order of the day, where we assembled rods, spooled reels, discussed lures and strategies, making sure we were on top of our game and ready to go to battle, as the following three days were practice days to acclimatize to conditions and the style of fishing in the DR, as although the species of billfish remains constant the way in which you target and angle them varies in different waters.

In the DR FAD fishing is a popular way of fishing, which there are over 100 and are found 27 miles offshore in the blue water outside the drop-off. These are usually put into place by local panga fisherman and at times with assistance of the government.

In October which is when the tournament was held is mostly late blue marlin season of which FAD’s are usually magnets for. FAD fishing has both their pros on con’s due to the eco system they create also attracting Mahi, Tuna and of course the dreaded Barracuda. – we will get back to these somewhat of a nuisance fish later.

For our three practice days, we arranged the well know boat TEASER, a 42' Egg Harbor Captained by Angel Muntaner a very accomplished billfish angler and close compadre of ours.

The team found their sea legs very quickly and were ready to fight the beautiful needle noses of the deep blue. Angel provided us with loads of local knowledge and guided us with which lures to put where in the spread to entice the blues to the surface, as we used the same baits that were to be used in the tournament which were the trusted Ballyhoo or commonly known halfbeak. A halfbeak is usually a small bait to use for marlin fishing but is the standard bait for the ILTTA tournaments. So, we wanted to “practice how we play”

The three practice days were rather slow with Mark releasing 2 Blue’s, Charlie 1 Blue (which comes with an incredible story, that ended up going viral on social media) and myself losing out on a very impressive 450-500lb Blue Marlin off the right rigger, that took off grey hounding, fought for a while but then jumped back on the line, my heart broke.

It was always going to be a challenge landing a 16:1 ratio Blue Marlin on light tackle, as we were fishing on 30lb mono and 120lb Fluro leader with 7/0 circle hooks. I was

up for the challenge but alas it was not to be, I personally think she was just scared of the fight, lol.



With the 3 practice days behind us the next day was an off day which was also registration and goodie bag collection day. We got to mingle with the rest of the competing anglers, catch up with old friends and make new ones and of course suss out the competition.

In our goodie bags were our provided compulsory use competition line, ANDE 30lb test. The reason for this is to keep the make and breaking strength of the line standard for all, and ensure it is a fair playing field for all competitors.

The ILTTA is usually a 20lb test line class tournament with a 30min time limit from hook up to release, if the fish was not tipped by the 30 min time cap the line is to be cut and fishing continue. This is due to the fact that in the ILTTA you do not fish with your team, but rather 2 other anglers from different countries and teams, and both the boat and anglers' you fish with is rotated daily, therefore it would be unfair to the other anglers on the boat if you sat fighting a fish for hours exhausting the other anglers fishing time, especially if the bite was on and multiple fish could be released in a shorter than usual time frame. So, for this tournament because the most prominent species was blue marlin and there were a lot of bigger fish around, the decision was taken by the tournaments committee to fish with 30lb test and a 1-hour time cap was afforded to us, giving us a better chance of releasing the fish.

After grabbing a "refreshment" or 2 and chatting with our fellow competitors we headed back to the rooms where we de-spoiled our practice line and then re-

spooled our competition line, made sure our boat tackle bags were prepped, drags were set and our weapons of war were ready for battle.

The same evening was the opening ceremony and boat draw for the coming week. The boat draw is a computer-generated draw using algorithms that selects you on a different boat and with different anglers for the four days of fishing. The SADSAA team was the first draw of the tournament with Charlie being drawn first, then myself and then Mark, we were pretty happy with the boats we drew and were optimistic for the fishing that lay ahead. Once all teams and anglers had their boats, it is kind of a mad scramble of running around to see who has drawn the same boat as you for the different days and to see who you will be fishing with on the different days.

After dinner and dessert was enjoyed, we headed back to the rooms to get some rest for the next day being the first day of the tournament. I don't believe any of the three of us got much sleep that night due to the excitement and anticipation of the next day.

It was a rather large fleet with 22 boats and 69 anglers competing, so a portion of the fleet left from the docks in-front of the club house, walking distance from the hotel and the remaining bigger vessels departing from Marina Cap Cana which involved a 45 min bus ride to the marina. Unfortunately, my first- and third-days boat draws left from the marina where my teammates were leaving from the docks on all four days.

Day 1: We said our well wishes fist pumped and we went our separate ways pumped with excitement and smiles you couldn't wipe off our faces if you tried. The first day I was on Angela a very well-known boat, however it was an extremely slow day and I went without even an enquiry from a bill. Barracuda on the other hand were having a field day with the easy lunches I was providing them; I did catch a bunch of them on circle hook and fluoro which would baffle the game fish anglers that use wire and trebles. My team mates also unfortunately returned empty handed and no flying flag to show for their efforts.



Day 2: Myself as well as my teammates were departing from the docs in front of the club house which was great. After breakfast high spirited and filled with hope and positivity that today was the day I got the monkey off my back, we headed down to the docks to find where our boats were moored, of which I was on the boat "Monikita". We finally got to take some pics together and on our various vessels. We gave each other Bluetooth high fives and loads of thumbs ups, then we were off again into the deep blue. Sadly, another frustrating day was instore for me where the Barracuda were running rampant, because of these nuisance fish, we ran out of prepared baits and unfortunately our deck hand was extremely green and was not up to standard, so I had to get stuck in and make my own baits, and in true ILTTA spirit made for my competitors as well. As fate would have it, each of them got a fish, and not even a Hi from a bill on my line, just once again a whole bunch of Barracuda catches though.

As the fleet was pulling back into the docks, I was looking around to see if my team had been successful. Not being able to see their boats, we got back to shore where some snacks and "refreshments" were waiting for us, we swopped stories and unfortunately theirs was a lot like mine, filled with frustration and disappointment. However, in true SA style and the next day being the lay day we were not going to let this get us down and decided to up the gees and have a jol. Get the mojo right sort of speaking. And that's exactly what we did.

On the lay day, the tournaments committee always plans an excursion which usually involves a bit of sightseeing and indulgence in the local culture of the host country. This is an optional adventure of which as a team we respectfully declined to attend, as we had a bit of running maintenance to do, strip some line, restock tackle bags and making sure everything is on point for the next and 3rd day of the tournament. Once we were satisfied, we were happy with everything, we headed down to the pool and enjoyed the sun and decided that as the saying goes, babalas catches fish and we all needed fish. As a team we enjoyed a great day on the beach and at the pools. That evening met up with the rest of the competitors for the social evening and it was evident many of them had the same mind set as ours hahaha.



Day 3: Rejuvenated from our lay day, the team was amped to get back at it and show what we can do. Once again, I was split from the team and headed back to the marina where I was to board the Tomahawk, a 63-foot Viking, a stunning boat with a top-notch crew that had been successful in the first two days of competition. Armed with a slight babalabas, excited to fish off a 63 Viking and a crew & captain that knew exactly what they were doing I couldn't wait to get out there. The early morning started slow besides from once again you guessed it, those pesty Barracuda's.

Around mid-morning rod in hand as usual and poised on the right rigger, bang the rekkie snapped off the clip, and I knew it was game on, free spooling, waiting for the optimal time to go up on the drag, laser focused, the time was right, I went up on the drag and boom I was vas on a blue marlin. I was ecstatic. After a 6 or so min fight, in the distance she decided to give one helluva display jumping and shaking her head, the next second I feel like line go slack and even said to myself Noooooooo.... not again, so I wound like my life depended on it, hoping to regain tension thinking she was probably swimming towards the boat. This was not the case, as I wound the roughly 250m of line back onto the reel I see the double line then the leader as well as the hook, however the leader and terminal tackle looked like it had had a proper session on Ouma's hair curlers and rougher than a baggers backside, indicating that it was more than likely bill wrapped and that monkey was still firmly on my back.

Ever determined I grabbed my other rod, loaded a bait and sent it swimming. Only to catch more Barracuda's and that's how the day ended, with disappointment, but not defeated, there was one more day to go. All but one of the boats and the anglers were back at the marina, unfortunately we had to wait for 1 boat due to a breakdown from engine failure. Finally, they arrived back and after a very sombre bus trip back to the club we were late so most of the festivities were over and anglers had gone their separate ways to get stuck into a good dinner at the hotel.



Day 4: Last day of competition and team SADSAA had nothing to lose and we were determined to get on the board. So, we attacked the day with the same enthusiasm as we did on day 1,2 & 3 with high spirits, passion and full of motivation. The team made their way down to the docks to find our boats, with everyone aboard their boats and ready to depart. As my luck would have it, my boat, Big Tuna was broke, it had lost its hydraulic steering and unable to go to sea. Watching the fleet leave the

docks I was left high and dry with the backup boat already in use, I didn't have options at my disposal.

With all but one other boat – Moonstruck, long departed, I asked the tournaments liaison why the boat was still at the docks, and she advised that they were waiting for one angler that had not yet arrived, so they were waiting on him. A few minutes later she got word that the angler was unfit to go to sea due to a stomach issue. So, with some quick thinking and fast reactions I grabbed my rods and bag and before the other anglers on the boat even knew what was going on I asked the tournaments liaison if I could fill in on Moonstruck, which she agreed to. Bolting down the dock with rods and bag in hand I got to the boat and in my broken Spanglish explained what was happening, then asked if I may board as I would be filling the gap, and we could now go to sea. I found my opportunity to get out there and was determined to make the best of it. The other two anglers aboard, one Mexican and the other Dominican were just as happy because they too could now leave the docks, we threw lines and steamed off to the fishing grounds.

Roughly 2 hours after the rest of the fleet arrived at the fishing grounds we pulled in and even before the outriggers had been lowered, I had my line in the water, keen to make up for lost time. The day went by steadily with Barracuda's doing their usual thing, destroying our baits. Paying full attention and not sitting or the rod leaving my hand the whole day I waited patiently for a chance at a fish. Hours went by and nothing, didn't even raise a single fish the whole day. 4pm came and that was all she wrote, ILTTA 2024 done and dusted. ILTTA's motto is – "It's better to make a friend than catch a fish" and I believe someone came up with that motto for days like this where I made two great friends but didn't catch a single fish. However, I know I lived up to my motto which is "fish hard and fish to the last minute"

We got back to the docks obviously a bit dejected I looked for my teammates, and to my delight both Mark and Charlie had released a blue marlin each, putting SADSAA on the board and that's exactly what we set out to do. I was so chuffed for the boys!



I may have only got two chances at fish in seven days and not come away with an Atlantic like I sorely wanted, in hindsight I still came back with a wealth of new knowledge & experience, learnt a lot about determination & perseverance even though the results did not match my efforts, and I made some really good friends all whilst having a great time doing it. And isn't that fishing after all????

I left the DR with gratitude & pride for the opportunity to represent my country, thanks for having such incredible teammates & the blessing of being able to do what I love.

I look forward to the next adventure hunting bills & tightening lines.

See you on the water!!!

Wade Martin

Nomads Game Fishing Club – Prize Giving.

30th November 2024.

East Rand Ski Boat Club.

Around 50 persons (Members and families) attended with our Invited guest Mr. Neil Coetzer to award the prizes. Apologies were read out and the committee thanked those in attendance. Our Chairperson, Mr Chrisjan Jansen, controlled the affair which was followed by a great dinner arranged by Dries Liebenberg.



Southern Gauteng Interclub

Top Angler

Gold	Elmar Basson	600.00
Silver	Norman Coetzee	201.00
Bronze	Henk Liebenberg	62.37

Top Skipper/Boat

Gold	Chrisjan Jansen	Slice of Life	600.00
Silver	Norman Coetzee	Tjaila Tyd	201.00
Bronze	Henk Liebenberg	Saily Days	85.49

Nomads Closed

Top Angler

Gold	Mike Baty	51.66
Silver	Chrisjan Jansen	36.44
Bronze	Guy Pinker	30.82

Top Skipper/Boat

Gold	Shaun Aspen	Fintastic	142.05
Silver	Chrisjan Jansen	Slice of Life	64.96
Bronze	Norman Coetzee	Tjaila Tyd	20.90

Floating trophies

Sally Greening Trophy	1 st released Marlin	Chrisjan Jansen	Billfish Interprovincial Sodwana Feb 2024
Anglers Corner Trophy	1 st Released Sailfish	Norman Coetzee	Rosebowl XAI XAI March 24
Herbert Green Trophy	Most Meritorious Billfish	Chrisjan Jansen	Blue Marlin on 37kg Sodwana Interprovincials
J&C Blake Trophy	Most Meritorious Gamefish	Henk Liebenberg	11.90kg Rosebowl 24
Dave and Lyn McMillan Trophy	Most Meritorious Cuta	Henk Liebenberg	11.90kg Rosebowl 24
Anglers Taxi Trophy	Most Meritorious Dorado	Dries de la Ray	9.30kg Rosebowl
Dave and Lyn McMillan Trophy	Most Meritorious Tuna	Hennie Liebenberg	5.60kg Closed 24

Oom Ben Trophy	Heaviest other gamefish	Mike Baty	Queen Mackerel 6.50kg
Kobus Botha Total Holiday Inn Trophy	Best Junior Angler Lady Angler of the Year	Michael Gruar Eleanor Aspen	2 nd Top Lady at the Rosebowl 13.60 points
Hans Bonarius Trophy	Top Angler of the Year	Elmar Basson	600
Mercury Outboard Trophy	Top Skipper/Boat of the year	Chrisjan Jansen	Slice of Life
Peter Henderson Trophy	Top Upcoming Angler	Guy Pinker	
Leon de Beer Trophy	Most Successful Billfish angler	Dave Martin	
Ivanhoe Trophy	Nomads Member who contributed Most to Deep Sea Angling	Guy Pinker	
Albert Millar Trophy	Most Species in a Competition	Guy Pinker	Nomads Closed
Graig Shorter Trophy	Top Billfish Skipper of the Year	Christo Myburgh	
Non-Floating Trophy for Tag and Release Billfish in either the Rosebowl/ Closed	Elmar Basson Black Marlin Rosebowl		







Congratulations to all winners.

Nomads Committee 2024.

The Nomads Chant

We're Nomads We're Nomads

We live in the sea

Our boats are our homes

And our spirits are free

We travel the coastline

In search of our wish

And when we get lucky

We catch that big fish

We're loyal to Nomads

'cause we are the best

And if you're not with us

You will **lose with the rest!!**

..... Nomads!!!

CALCUTA 2024-2025
20 Dec- 3 Jan

BIGGEST GAME FISH CHALLENGE

Nomads
Skiboat • Skiboat
GAME FISHING CLUB
ROOFVIS KLUB

R500pp or
R1000 per boat
Payments: Into Nomads Account

Boundaries: Inhambane to Port Edward
Photo of fish and weight required.

Important Dates to Diarise.

ROSEBOWL 2025 - SODWANA

3RD – 7TH MARCH 2025



45th ROSEBOWL

**Join Team Nomads
and let's defend our
Trophy and our
Legacy!!**

SGDSAA INTERCLUB

Date: 3 – 7 March 2025
VENUE:
Sodwana Bay

Boats committed:

Fintastic

Slice of Life

Watermark

Gaffer Dog

Saily Days

Bulldog

Skylar Blue

Saily Days

Jaila Tyd

Shaya lo Manzi



45th ROSEBOWL

**Watermark Gaffer Dog Slice of Life
Fintastic Skylar Blue Bulldog
Saily Days Tjaila Tyd Shaya lo Manzi**

Confirmed

**Who will be
next?**

Nomads
Skiboat • Skiboat
GAME FISHING CLUB
ROOFVIS KLUB

SGDSAA INTERCLUB

Date: 3 – 7 March 2025
VENUE:
Sodwana Bay

“LET NOMADS MAKE A FORCE AND KEEP OUR TROPHY”

NOMADS CLOSED 2025

CAPE VIDAL

16th – 20th JUNE 2025



Boats committed:

- Fintastic – Shaun Aspden
- Mystic Boer – Friedel Kirstein
- Slice of Life – Chrisjan Jansen
- Watermark – Mark Cockroft
- Voice Mail – Adrian Feher
- Chezzy – Alex Lockyer
- Saily Days – Henk Liebenberg
- Fish Hunter – Hennie Liebenberg
- Aquaholic (Provisional) – Elmar Basson

“THE # 1 NOMADS TROPHY”

Welcome New Members.

**New Membership
2025**



**Welcome to the Nomads
Family Izak Venter**



**New Membership
2025**



**Welcome to the Nomads
Family Charlie du Plessis and
Faith Lategan**



Support Members in Our Club.

Members, please send in details about your company to be posted in the newsletter. FOC.





“Tight Lines and may all the hook ups stick”

Gus Pinker – Editor.