



EVENT REPORT

The AFFC Trout Classic 2023 was held during the weekend of 3rd, 4th, and 5th November.

The Friday evening started with a bang as Chef Wouter and Lynn Gaylard served a variety of scrumptious snacks during registration. Each participant received a goodie bag containing Yumeez biscuits, a pack of flies from SciFlies, an Xplorer Fly Fishing discount voucher, and a pair of stainless steel forceps. The most sought-after item was undoubtedly the remarkable fishing hoodie gifted to all attendees by sponsors Plasson, TRRC, Target Line, and ANCA Foods.

The smooth-talking Peter Brown gave a short welcome and briefing, during which the junior entrants were presented with trucker caps from Xplorer Fly Fishing and a jumbo selection of flies courtesy of SciFlies. It was heart-warming to see the looks of pleasure and excitement on the youngster's faces when they received the gifts.

Everyone settled in for the evening, enjoying a good old-fashioned bring-and-braai and some live music by Dean Stoltz. Then, at a suitably late hour, they headed off to their tents to get some sleep, or so we thought... Mother Nature had other plans and most campers were hard-pressed to get any sleep during the wind storm that blew until the early hours of Saturday morning.

Saturday morning was drizzly and misty but despite the challenging weather conditions, the participants were determined and enthusiastic to get going. Hot coffee, delicious homemade rusks (courtesy of Dot Gerhold), and an assortment of biscuits (thank you Biscuit World) were provided for the sleep-deprived as they began their early day. Setting out on the water at 5:30 am, most persevered until lines up at 6:00 pm. Although the drizzle and misty conditions kept the trout quiet for most of the day, the incredible array of prizes on offer was a good incentive and the determined anglers were eventually rewarded with decent catches.

While the anglers were huddling under their waterproofs, working hard for that prize-winning trout, Chef Wouter and his crew of helpers were hard at work with preparations for the evening feast. Knives were honed on the Warthog Knife Sharpeners then put to work chopping and slicing ingredients for the four different potjie dishes to be served to the hungry attendees. Once the pots were bubbling away under the watchful eye of pit master Barry, the catch returns started coming in and it was then the job of the numbers ladies, Lesley and Karin, to capture the returns and determine the positions.

Before the Saturday night formalities got underway, the entrants had an opportunity to test their casting accuracy for the chance to win a Horizon TFS rod courtesy of Frontier Fly Fishing and a Redington Crosswater reel from Bilimoria. Most of the stillwater fishermen struggled with pinpoint accuracy and ultimately it was Rob Scott, with his stream fishing experience, that came out on top.

Due to the inclement weather, everyone made their way into the living area of the clubhouse for the prize-giving. With 31 prize categories, the experienced Mr Brown did a marvelous job of keeping proceedings on track amid the festive atmosphere. Special consideration was given to ensure that each junior angler received a prize. After the happy winners had received their prizes, it was time to draw the raffle for the Shilton CR2 reel. Pieter Oosthuizen was the lucky winner, and judging by the smile on his face, he was a very happy man indeed. The final bit of excitement involved a special lucky draw, where every person at the prize-giving won a prize.

As the evening progressed, a lively atmosphere filled the air, thanks in part to the generous open bar provided by sponsors Plasson and TRRC. However, the grumbling of stomachs could no longer be ignored and it was time for the feast. A variety of delicious potjie pots, rice, sauces, and salads were presented, and everyone tucked in with enthusiasm. Chef Wouter then raised the bar by serving a dessert of flavoured malva puddings, ice cream, and custard - a heavenly treat after a long day of burning calories in the cold.

The socialising moved back outside where the "kuis" fires were lit. The talented Dean Stoltz kept the live music playing, accompanied at times by "backing singers" of questionable ability. The festivities continued until early Sunday morning, resulting in a few people having tired and bleary eyes.

Despite the challenging weather conditions, the 2023 event was a tremendous overall success. The event had a total of 65 attendees, with 58 of these being competitors. The 9 junior entrants had a ball and will surely be back next year. On the fundraising side, a very respectable amount was raised that will assist in funding the annual stocking of the club's trout waters.

In terms of catch return numbers –

Largest rainbow trout: 53.5 cm

Largest brown trout: 51 cm

Longest individual bag: 1183 cm

Total length of fish caught: 10895 cm (109 m)

Our sincere thanks go to all who attended the event, for competing with such enthusiasm and contributing to the incredible social atmosphere for which this event is known.

A huge pat on the back and thank you to all those who helped out during the event, especially if you were there to relax but jumped in to help anyway.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors who generously donated prizes, resources, and their valuable time to support us in organizing this memorable event. Our appreciation also goes to all the people who donated in their private capacity. It is only through your selfless contributions that we were able to put together an unforgettable experience for everyone to enjoy and cherish. An extra special thank you to those special people and companies that support us every year without hesitation.

Thank you for making this event possible!



Category Prize Winners

JUNIOR

Pos	Name	Fish Size (cm)	Prize
1	Thomas Warren	53.1	Longpak R1000 Cash + Omnispool Line Care Kit + R500 Xplorer F/Fishing Voucher
2	Robert Biggs (jnr)	44.0	Yonderlea Timber R500 Cash + Omnispool Line Care Kit + R500 Xplorer F/Fishing Voucher
3	Jay Rance (jnr)	40.0	Longpak R200 Cash + Omnispool Line Care Kit + R500 Xplorer F/Fishing Voucher
4	Mikayla Rance	lucky draw position	Xplorer F/Fishing Net + NTT VW Cap
5	Jack Rance	lucky draw position	R500 Xplorer F/Fishing Voucher + NTT VW Backpack
6	Jade Taylor	lucky draw position	R500 Xplorer F/Fishing Voucher + NTT VW Duffle Bag
7	Cole Rance	lucky draw position	R500 Target Line Voucher + NTT VW Cap
8	Murray Rance	lucky draw position	R500 Target Line + NTT VW Water Bottle
9	Ryan Blair	lucky draw position	R500 Target Line Voucher

All junior fish also count in open prize categories

RAINBOW TROUT (OPEN)

Pos	Name	Fish Size (cm)	Prize
1	Sean Swart	53.5	AFFC R5000 Cash + Eco Tanks Africooler 55lt
2	Thomas Warren	53.1	Hotfire Safaris R3000 Cash + Eco Tanks Slimline tank
3	Kyle Petzer	52.0	EL Dynamics R2000 Cash + Eco Tanks Africooler 27lt
4	Dean Stoltz	50.0	Shire Eco Lodge Voucher + R500 Target Line Voucher + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
5	Andre Farr	tied 49 (2nd fish 48,5)	R500 Target Line Voucher + Shilton Cap + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
6	Ryan Ewing	tied 49 (2nd fish 46)	R500 Target Line Voucher
7	Stefan de Lange	tied 49 (2nd fish 44)	Shilton Cap + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
8	Nick Biggs	tied 49 (2nd fish 42)	East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls

Prize-winning fish are excluded from the longest bag category

BROWN TROUT (OPEN)

Pos	Name	Fish Size (cm)	Prize
1	Alfred Rohrs	51.0	African Waters Lesotho Trip + Warthog Knife Sharpener
2	Brandon Duwe	48.0	Frontier F/Fishing Horizon Tactical Competition Rod + Lowestoffe Country Lodge Voucher
3	Ryan Phelan	47.0	Shilton CR2 Reel + Loch Lochy Grasslands Farm Voucher
4	Glenn Raath	44.0	R500 Target Line Voucher + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
5	Rob Scott	33.0	NTT VW Mini Weber + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls

Prize-winning fish are excluded from the longest bag category

LONGEST BAG

Pos	Name	Fish Size (cm)	Prize
1	Rob Scott	1150.0	J-Vice + Queenstown Club Membership
2	Kyle Petzer	558.0	Frontier F/Fishing Horizon Tactical Competition Rod + Gairtney Guest Farm (Cloete Du Plessis) Voucher
3	Shane Stoltz	523.0	Shilton CR3 Reel + Thrift Dam Voucher
4	Ryan Pickering	507.0	Warthog Knife Sharpener + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
5	Ryan Ewing	503.0	R500 Target Line Voucher + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
6	Dean Stoltz	463.0	Meatlovers Den Biltong Hamper + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls
7	Cornelius De Ridder	381.0	Shilton Cap + East Cape Bags Hamper + Pudding Bowls

ACCURACY CASTING

Pos	Name	Prize
1	Rob Scott	2 out of 3 targets Frontier F/Fishing Horizon Tactical Freshwater Rod + Redington Crosswater Reel

SHILTON REEL RAFFLE

Pos	Name	Prize
1	Pieter Oosthuizen	Shilton CR2 reel