

Banks & Canyons

The official newsletter of the Shoalhaven Game Fishing Club

February 2024





Presidents Report

It is with great sadness that I write this latest report for the Club.

The Club has lost one of its hardest working members this last week with the death of Life Member Veronica Hardy. Veronica, with her husband Geoff stepped in to run critical and pivotal roles in the club at various times in the past. Geoff being President and Veronica being Secretary. She will be sadly missed by her family and the many friends she has made along the way.

On the fishing scene the Tournament campaigns for many club boats have started in earnest. We have fished Dadsboat at the Batemans Bay GFC Tollgate Tournament during January attending with Matt and Loretta's Interlude. While the fishing wasn't red hot for us, we all had a great time. We have also this last weekend competed in the Ulladulla GFC Jess Sams Tournament. The club was well represented again by Dadsboat and new Club boat Deftone. There is a report in this latest edition of The Banks and Canyons.

With plenty of marlin turning up it is the perfect time to get the crew together and chase a few fish. Our neighbouring clubs are all hosting their tournaments over the next month or so and are all great events. These are Jervis Bay GFC, Kiama GFC and Shellharbour GFC. Look out for their entry forms shared on our Facebook page.

On our Club front the Committee have been working hard to put

together the 51st Annual Shoalhaven Open Tournament.

It will be bigger and better than last year with a range of great prizes and categories to fish for. The dates are the 23rd and 24th of March held at our home at The Greenwell Point Bowling Club. Mark it in your diaries and get keen!!

Also shown in our club magazine and on our Facebook Page are our invaluable sponsors, without their support we would not be able to run the great events that we do. If you see them, thank them, and if you can, please support them.

We also held our Barefoot Bowls and Christmas BBQ during the silly season. It was well attended with over 35 of our members and their families there. It is always lovely to share these events and the activities of the Club.

The Committee has also been working on a new Club website which will be a hub for everything Club related. Being able to renew memberships, enter tournaments and make payments all in the one place will be a great asset to the Club.

That about wraps up my report for this time of the year. I hope to catch up with you all at the Shoalhaven Open in March, or look forward to chatting with you on the water.

Craig Murphy
President.



hold on tight...

Shoalhaven GFC Committee 22/24

President

CRAIG MURPHY - 0417 684 259

Vice President

MATTHEW WALTON - 0438 695 215

Treasurer

RHIANON MURPHY - 0431 140 618

Secretary

LIZ SIKORA - 0402 715 861

Recorder

Kaleena Matthews

General Committee

BLAKE MATTHEWS

KIM BICE

DALE SPRESSER

CHRIS HEFFERNAN

JUSTIN VAN HOVEN

ZANE TEBBUTT

Life Members

PETER GOADBY (deceased)

TOM ROCHE (deceased)

LEON SOLOMON (deceased)

JOE TAYLOR (deceased)

WAL AULSEBROOK

GEOFF HARDY

VERONICA HARDY (deceased)

LIZ SIKORA

KEITH HOLLINGWORTH

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Competiton Reports

Batemans Bay Tolgates Open 2024.

In January Interlude and Dadsboat made the trip down to represent the Shoalhaven Game Fishing Club in the annual Batemans Bay GFC Tollgates Open competition.

Both boats were prepped, packed and ready for an early start on Friday morning as it is a two hour run to the north edge of the fishing grounds and we both wanted to be close to the action at the start of fishing at 7am.

Traditionally this is where it has all gone wrong for us as we gathered at the Greenwell Point Pub on Thursday night for a couple of "quiet" drinks and a meal. In years gone by as we have finished the last of the scotch on Dadsboat at around 2am with talk of going to bed as we have an early start, it has raised questions about where exactly the priorities lie. This year however was a much quieter affair and we were tucked away at about 11pm with dreams of Marlin on the line.

The weather gods were kind to us the first morning and we both managed around 20knts heading south to the fishing grounds just

One that didnt get away..



south of the Ulladulla Canyons. We decided not to stop to get slimies at the river mouth in the hope of jiggging them up on the shelf as we had a long run. This proved to be a good plan as we crossed the Kink just east of Jervis Bay it was

full of slimy mackerel and within 10 minutes we both had a full tank and were headed South again. We had 7 Shoalhaven Crew on board and Craig had 6 so the internal comp between the two boats was alive and well. To be fair it was a little sloppy once we had the lures out and there are few green faces on board with one of the boys depositing breakfast over the side by 8:37 not exactly the greatest start but always a good laugh for those that feel ok.

Unfortunately for us, the day would prove to be super frustrating as we seemed to have a knack of being everywhere the fish were not. We found some reasonable bait a few miles into the fishing zone and thought we would work it for the day and see what we could find as the weather was turning rather fresh from the east and we figured we would be able to run home to Batemans with the wind. Dadsboat hooked a fish mid morning on 15kg with Zane Tebbutt doing the damage and that left us one fish behind early. Not a problem

I thought plenty of time left in the day. Just after lunch I tried to duck down for little 30 minutes nap time as I've been on the helm since 5:30 and of course I no sooner been laid out for less than 5 minutes when Jeff yells Marlin in the spread. This was Jeff's first Marlin fishing



79 years young..

trip and we were hoping to break the duck, however by the time I got up from down below the fish had decided there was nothing there for it and swam back through spread and disappeared. Apparently the fish swam right up to the transom darted left and right lit up like a Christmas tree and then peeled off and disappeared, serves me right for trying to have a sleep I suppose. Unfortunately for both boats we couldn't find another fish and there were plenty of boats much further south on three or four fish for the day, which only adds to the frustration.

So we ran back to Batemans marina with our tail between our legs to wash up and get ready for the presentation dinner. It's always a bit of a mission to get ready in time to make it to the dinner but the boys got to it and we made it there on time. Everyone was pretty tired as we had had a long day with an early start, so by the time we got dinner done and a couple of drinks we were well and truly ready for bed (with a few exceptions..)

The forecast for Saturday was a strong nor'easter getting up to about 25 knots reasonably early in the day so we made our way back up north again to fish the top of the zone in the hope of having a more comfortable run home. We were

Banks & Canyons



hoping to get a fish early to even the score with dadsboat, and enjoy another day of going head to head with our good friends. Unfortunately not long into the day Craig radioed to say they had some engine trouble and had to head back to the Marina, such a shame.

We found the bait again and it did seem to be quite a bit fishier and within an hour we had a strike on one of the left rigger, but as is often the case with lure fishing it didn't stick for long. The next gap of time went by quite quickly but at about 10:30 the shotgun started screaming and we were tight again. The fish took off greyhounding in the opposite direction and by the time we had Mum in the chair and sorted and could get after the fish we were down to about the last third of the spool and the boys were looking a bit nervous. However like the trooper that she is, mum set to work with Interlude running backwards and we quickly started to take up some of the slack line. Luckily the fish was running with the sea and pretty much the whole fight was downwind, making things quite pleasant given the conditions. For those of you who know Loretta (my Mum) you would know she can be quite determined and as she turns 80 this year, she is still powering away like age is just a number. In 20

mins we had the tag into a good sized striped Marlin and congratulations all round. We were back to even with dadsboat, but does it really count if they are sitting in the Marina? hell yeah it does.

We kept at it for a couple more hours having one more strike but no connection and early afternoon we decided to call it a day as the NorEaster, was now in full swing and even if we had of hooked a fish I think fighting would have been near impossible. That night as usual catalina's put on a great spread for dinner and once again the boys were pretty cane for an early night so we all headed back to the boat about 10:30 ready for the fish home on Sunday.

Once again the forecast was for a noreaster for the run home however it had dropped off considerably from Saturday but was going to be reasonably heavy again by the afternoon so we decided to make hay while the sun shines and shoot up north again early to the very top of the area so that we were halfway home. Once we got there we found that the bait was full of quite small pencil slimies and we had heard on the radio that there was a good morning bite off Jervis Bay so we decided to pull in and run back home as we were certainly not troubling the leaders in the competition. dadsboat had had to

stay in the pen as they were waiting for a part for the engine so their comp was done anyway and we decided to call it a draw.

We said goodbye to everyone on the

radio and thanked them for a great competition and will be back next year. The Batemans Bay comp is always a great time and the fishing was red hot this time, however it just wasn't our year. Back to the drawing board for us to try a few new things for next time.

Andrew Turner and the team run a great comp and we're happy to attend. I think dadsboat has been fishing it for more than 20 years. It's nice to support the southern zone clubs as much as possible in the context of our busy lives.

Matt Walton

86th Ulladulla Jess Sams Competition 2024.

It has been a while since we last fished the Ulladulla Jess Sams Tournament, for no other reason than we always seemed to be busy. Thankfully our weekend was free this year and we entered with a bit of an up and down weather forecast.

We were joined at the tournament by new Shoalhaven Game Fishing Club Deftone Skippered by Jai Bairle fishing their first comp. Also fishing for the weekend was Guy Jamieson and Andy Clarke crewing on the ever-competitive Shimano Tomahawk with Tom and Chloe Laurence.

The Friday morning dawned perfectly, we loaded the tank with Slimeys on the bait ground at Crookhaven Heads and headed for The Banks to fish the early tide change. Our baits had been in the water for around an hour when we had a marlin come up on our dredge teaser. He followed it for a minute or so before dropping back onto



Dirty Deeds from Ulladulla.

Banks & Canyons



our short bait. In short time Jackson 'Jacko' Taylor had tagged our first fish and we were on the board.

We persisted on The Banks for another hour or so before dropping the teasers in to troll to the shelf. There was a pretty good bite going on north of the Ulladulla Canyons and we wanted to be a part of it. Pro-Fish-Ent from Kiama had tagged a couple of marlin and Deftone were on the board with their first too.

We set the pilot to put us on the shelf around the double zero line which has always produced a bite or two for us. Half a mile from the spot we had a striped marlin up on the right teaser, he was lit up and keen to play. With a perfect switch, Jacko was fighting again on 15kg.

The fish stayed on the surface and Mikey tagged him in short order.

We weren't marking much bait on the sounder but decided to hang around our mark and were rewarded with another fish up on the teaser around 70 minutes later. Another perfect switch and we were fighting again. This time as Bailey Hunt was clearing our shotgun lure another marlin jumped on to that and we were fighting a double!

Bailey's fish stayed on the surface relatively close to the boat, so we worked hard on that fish, tagging



on the trace....

him in around 10 minutes. Jacko's fish had run to the south, so we put him on the bow of the boat where he lost around 600 metres of line. Thankfully we were on our own and didn't have to worry about other boat traffic.

After tagging Bailey's fish on 24kg we went to work on Jacko's, edging back slowly to recover line. By the time we backed down the 600 odd metres the fish was mildly paddling on the surface and was an easy tag shot for Bruce.

While we were seeing some action on the northern end of the grounds, the majority of the fleet were also busy with a good bite going on in the Ulladulla and Jervis Bay Canyons. Ulladulla Club boat Mayhem tagged a Sailfish on a live bait, Deftone had tagged a second fish and there was plenty going on down there.



not something you see everyday

We reset the teasers and started to push south toward the bite. Just wide of The Humps in around 150 fathoms we had another fish up on the teaser. This fish was a little cagier and more difficult to switch. He was there, then gone and back again. He finally switched onto our skip bait, Jacko set the hook and we were on

again.

This fish went hard, right from the bite he had us on the stoppers in reverse. Lots of time in the air and running around in circles. He fought like a



Bruce, Jacko and Bailey

Blue Marlin and stripped line at will. As the fight progressed and things settled down, we knew this fish was a different prospect.

At the two hour mark in the fight, we had shortened the line up and knew we were getting close. As we backed onto the fish, I could see from the bridge that he was now hooked in the tail.....this would be difficult!

Happily, another twenty minutes on the rod and Jacko bought the fish alongside where we got a good look at him. He was a feisty little Blue Marlin of about 110kg. We tagged him and sent him on his way in a good state.

Fishing had finished by this stage, we had a 35nm run to Ulladulla Harbour, after a quick tidy up, we were on our way. We finished the day with five fish, a personal Grand Slam to Jacko and we were stoked!!

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Deftone had finished their first day on 3 fish and were well in the hunt. The leading boat was Pro-Fish-Ent on 6 fish.

The next morning was relatively calm, but the forecast was for a building wind from the Northeast. We ran to our spot from the previous day to find the water was 2.5c cooler and green. We worked there for around 90 minutes before starting the troll down the shelf where Pro-Fish-Ent had tagged three on the first sched. Deftone was in the same area and had also tagged a fish.

There was no bait to speak of but the boats towing live baits were still getting bites. On Dadsboat we didn't have any live bait so towed skip baits round for zeroes for the day, watching Deftone, Side Effect and Pro-Fish-Ent tagging fish around us.

Jai Bairle and the boys on Deftone finished the day with four fish and were in second place, behind Pro-Fish-Ent who had tagged 10 so far for the tournament. Jammo and Andy on Shimano Tomahawk had tagged a couple of fish each day to be on four fish and were within striking distance of getting into the



days you dream of..

money which paid down to fifth place for the comp.

I must mention the tournament dinner hosted by the Ulladulla GFC at the Civic Centre. It was amazing with lots of prawns, oysters and steak!! They have really lifted the bar and put on a great evening with some incredible prizes in their raffle. Well done to them, we all had a wonderful evening.

The weather for Sunday was less than inspiring, with 30knot nor'easters forecast. Only 14 of the 37 boats hit the water. We ran up to Green Island to load up on Slimey's and ran to The Banks. We fished here until the end of fishing for one bite that we didn't connect to. There were only two fish tagged for the day by the fleet, an overall quite day on the water compared to the previous two!

One of the fish tagged on day three sadly pushed Deftone from Second to third place but they still ended the weekend in the prize money. The boys fished hard on their V17 Haines and showed a lot of the bigger boats how to do it. Gun angler Riley Watson, fishing on Deftone also took out the Champion Male Tag and Release title. They will be a force to be reckoned with in future tournaments and our own club point score! They represented the club well and should be so proud of their efforts. It was great to watch them work.

On Dadsboat, we ended up in fifth place which was the last place for the prize money. After our epic fist day, we didn't see another fish for

the rest of the tournament!! Tagging a Grand Slam for Jacko was an absolute high light and left us all very happy with our efforts for the weekend. George Lirantzis and his committee



the boys on Deftone

of the Ulladulla GFC put together a great weekend. The tournament dinner was one of the best I have ever been to, the radio coverage was great and there was plenty of fish around. We will certainly be back to compete their again.

Overall, the Shoalhaven Game Fishing Club was well represented. Both Club boats ended the weekend in the top 5 and Tomahawk finished in sixth place. A great result.

Craig Murphy
Dadsboat



what its all about..



Message from the Recorder

The year started off pretty slow with no T&R's or Captures recorded until December when the tag cards started flowing in.

Congratulations to Jackson Taylor on Dad's Boat who managed the Grand Slam on the Friday of the Jess Sams Tournament at Ulladulla tagging a Blue, Black and Striped Marlin all in one day.

Dads Boat also getting 5th Highest Point Scoring Boat T&R.

Congratulations also to Def Tone who were the 3rd Highest Point Scoring Boat T&R, won the first tagged Marlin on Friday and Saturday and to Riley Watson for winning the Highest Point Scoring Snr Male. Well done teams.

At the time of writing this report Club members have Tagged 30 Marlin, 1 Hammer head Shark and 3 Bronze Whaler Sharks. No captures have been recorded as yet.

Current Club Point Score Standings as at 16.2.24

Highest Point Scoring Angler T&R

Andy Clark	86,000
Riley Watson	69,000
Jackson Taylor	44,500
Guy Jamieson	20,000
Dale Southwell	20,000
Zane Tebbutt	11,500
Michael James	11,500
Ryan Jamieson	10,000
Shane Wietecki	3,000

Champion Boat T&R

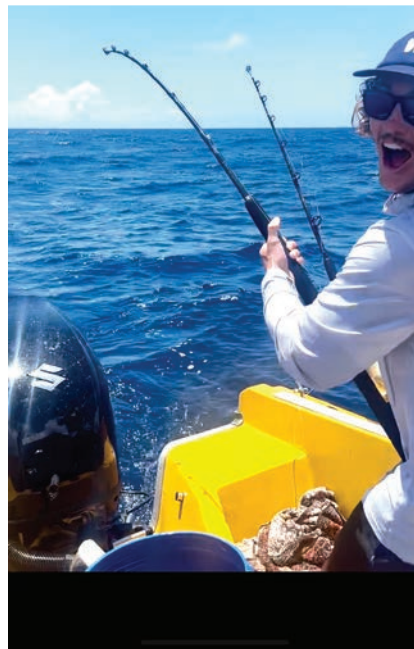
Slayn	179,750
Def Tone	80,500
Dadsboat	79,000
Interlude	11,500
2 Small	3,000

Don't forget to make sure you get your Tag Cards or Capture paperwork handed in to the secretary within 14days of the T&R or capture

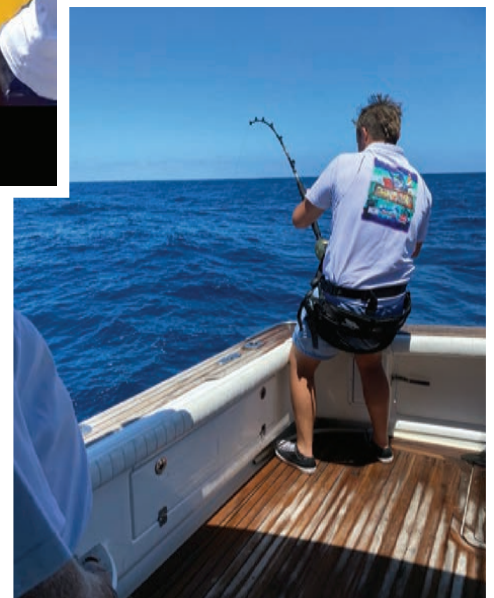
Happy Fishing
Kaleena



Andy Clark from Slayn.. currently well out in front



Riley Watson on DefTone



Zane Tebbutt from Dadsboat



23RD & 24TH MARCH



51st Annual

SHOALHAVEN OPEN

Tournament

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Meet your Committee Member

Name:	Justin (Joe) Van Hoven
Boat you fish on or skipper:	Interlude and my own 1978 Savage called "Salvage"
Years as a member of SHGFC:	10
Your best fishing memory :	The Covid time Yellowfin bonanza with 3 fish to 80Kg in one morning in 30 metres of water, amazing!
Who introduced you to fishing:	My grandfather, a legendary Snapper fisherman at Bawley Point.
Your biggest fishing aspiration:	To get a grand slam Marlin trifecta!
Favourite style of fishing:	Flathead on a paternoster...!
Favourite place to fish:	30 metres out the front of the river.
Favourite fish species:	Flathead, Marlin and Tuna in that order..
What do you love about fishing:	Almost everything, the prep, the chase and the reward. The bringing together of friends and the stories we get to tell afterward. Especially the tackle preparation at home. Something to do now I am retired.



Meet your Committee Member

Name:	Kaleena Matthews
Boat you fish on or skipper:	2 Small
Years as a member of SHGFC:	Around 7 years
Your best fishing memory :	One would have to be getting my first Marlin (and only one to this date) and also the Lake Conjola Flathead Classic where I have won the two Bream Categories for a female angler 4 times. I'm Proof that it's not always skill that wins a comp luck plays a part too haha well on my part anyway.
Who introduced you to fishing:	My son and daughter in-law Blake Matthews & Krystal Matthews
Your biggest fishing aspiration:	To get a photo holding the bill of a marlin I'd caught (didn't happen the first time) I haven't done a lot of game fishing so when I do I'm pretty clumsy on the rod so would be great to improve on that haha.
Favourite place to fish:	As I haven't been fishing for that long I have mainly fished on the South Coast and enjoy going out in Jervis Bay. Lots of different types of fishing can be done in the bay.
Favourite fish species:	Big Snapper to catch, Flathead & squid to eat.
What do you love about fishing:	Like Horse Riding, which is my other hobby it's a sport that anyone of any age can participate and compete in. It's something the whole family can do and when your out on the water your can switch off from the day to day things in life and just relax and enjoy the fishing.



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Club Sponsors

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support of our great club:



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SOUTHERN ZONE EVENTS CALENDAR

2023-2024

Zone weekend	July 8-9
Zone weekend	July 22-23
Zone weekend	August 12-13
Zone weekend	August 26-27
Zone weekend	September 9-10
Zone weekend	September 23-24
Zone weekend Labour Day	September 30, October 1,2
Zone weekend	October 7-8
Zone weekend	October 21-22
Zone weekend	November 11-12
Zone weekend	November 25-26
Zone weekend	December 9-10
Zone weekend	December 23, 24,25,26
Zone weekend	December 30, 31, January 1
Zone weekend	January 13-14
Batemans Bay Tollgate Island Classic*	January 19,20-21
Zone weekend	January 27-28
Bermagui Bluewater Open*	January 26,27-28
Ulladulla Jess Sam's Tournament*	February 2,3-4
Zone weekend	February 10-11
Zone weekend	February 24-25
NSWGFA Interclub	February 23,24-25
Alliance Tournament	March 9-10
Zone weekend	March 9-10
Shellharbour Open Tournament *	March
Jervis Bay White Sands Tournament*	March 15,16-17
Shoalhaven Open Tournament *	March 23-24
Zone weekend	March 23-24
Zone weekend Easter	March 29, 30, 31 April 1
Kiama Big fish Classic*	January 6-7
Zone weekend	April 13-14
Zone weekend	April 27-28
Zone weekend	May 11-12
Canberra Tuna Tournament*	May 18, 19-20
Zone weekend	May 25-26
Merimbula Open*	June 8,9-10
Zone weekend Queens Birthday	June 8,9-10
Zone weekend	June 22-23
Southern Zone AGM & Presentation Lunch	July 7
Zone weekend	July 13-14
Zone weekend	July 27-28

NB: Zone weekends are the second and forth full weekends of every month. Fish tagged or captured at the NSW Interclub will be counted in SZ monthly Cock O the Walk competition. All gazetted NSW Public Holiday long weeks are included. * Denotes nominated tournaments eligible for Zone points plus the Columbus and George Bass trophies. Fish caught and nominated in the July Batemans Bay Tuna competition are all eligible for zone points as this is a sanctioned tournament.