

## EDITORIAL

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CAPE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY IN  
NOVEMBER 1931

IN October 1931 a circular letter was sent out from St. George's House to some 60 trout anglers. It was signed by R. G. Simpson and A. C. Harrison and headed: "Proposed Formation of a Cape Piscatorial Society (Fresh Water)".

This circular (No. 1 in the Society's records) stated that the writers believed that there was an opening for an association of anglers interested in the introduction and culture of trout and other freshwater fish in the Cape. They felt that if such a society were formed, its objects might be made wide reaching and not merely local; particularly as there were no practical means by which anglers who were interested in the various problems of freshwater biology, usually studied in connection with fish culture in other countries, could be brought together.

The response was encouraging, and promises of support were very gratifying, so on November 11, 1931, Simpson and Harrison sent out a second circular giving notice of an inaugural meeting to be held at 4 p.m. on November 20th. This letter was accompanied by a draft of the proposed Objects and Rules.

The Inaugural Meeting was duly held in Temple Chambers, Cape Town, by the kindness of Advocate (afterwards Judge) R. P. B. Davis, who took the chair. A. C. Harrison was asked to act as Secretary of the meeting. The others who attended the inaugural meeting were Dr. A. J. Ballantine, Dr. Keppel H. Barnard, Messrs. F. G. Chaplin, J. C. Dendy, R. G. Simpson and C. H. F. Woolley.

Although the attendance was small, the Secretary was able to report that promises of support had been received from: Mr. C. Leo Biden, Dr. H. M. Bosman, Mr. Fred Bowker ("Kingfisher"), Mr. Frank E. Cartwright (of "Spier", Lynedoch), Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke"), Dr. Fred B. Dreyer, Mr. R. C. Duthie, Mr. J. P. Findlay, Mr. Alexander Forsyth, Dr. L. B. Goldschmidt, Advocate R. B. Howes, Dr. Cecil V. Impey, Advocate P. T. Lewis, Mr. R. Stanley Lewis, Mr. A. E. Manley, Mr. D. M. Manning, Dr. P. de V. Moll, Dr. Charles M. Murray, Mr. G. W. Pilkington, Mr. Tom Newton, Mr. A. T. Packham, Mr. James Perkins (Worcester), Dr. R. L. Scott, Capt. Charles Struben, Mr. Donald Swan, Mr. W. C. Thorp, the Hon. Mr. Justice E. F. Watermeyer, Mr. S. F. Waterson, M.P., and Admiral C. Woolley.

As it was considered that the support promised was sufficient to justify the formation, on the motion of the Chairman the Society was voted into being, and all those present and those who had expressed their intention of joining were elected as Foundation Members of the Society.

The meeting then proceeded to take the draft rules clause by clause. These were adopted without alteration, and only figures, left blank in the draft, were inserted. The subscription was fixed at 10/6 for the calendar year—the remaining fragment of 1931 being included with 1932.

The Office-bearers elected were: President, the Hon. Mr. Justice E. F. Watermeyer; Vice-President, Capt. Charles Struben; Hon. Treasurer, Advocate P. T. Lewis; Hon. Secretary, A. Cecil Harrison; Committee (with power to co-opt), Dr. Fred B. Dreyer, Dr. Cecil V. Impey and Mr. R. G. Simpson.

Some of the Objects were:—

To assist members in obtaining freshwater fishing.

The first stocking project of the Cape Piscatorial Society. Experiments with trout in peat-stained, acid water. Transport of brown trout to the Silvermine (Muizenberg) Reservoir, on December 5, 1931.

Halt at the break-pressure tank, half-way up the bridle path. Ranger, A.C.H., A. D. Harrison and Joan Simpson.

(Photo: R. G. Simpson)



To encourage and extend the culture and protection of trout and other desirable freshwater fish in the Cape.

To encourage the study of freshwater biology in its application to fish culture and protection.

To foster a public demand for the maintenance of the purity of rivers and inland waters, and enquiry into cases of pollution and the means for their suppression.

The Hon. Secretary stated that Mr. R. G. Simpson had conceived the idea of making another attempt to stock the Muizenberg Storage Reservoir with trout, and that he had received written permission from the Waterworks Dept. The meeting instructed the Committee to proceed with the stocking of the Muizenberg Reservoir.

The Committee lost no time in getting down to business and they met on December 2, 1931. Judge E. F. Watermeyer took the chair, and Capt. Chas. Struben, Advocate P. T. Lewis, R. G. Simpson and the Hon. Secretary were present. The latter reported that 20 of the Foundation Members elected at the Inaugural Meeting of November 20th had confirmed. Fifteen others had not—but they all did later. Financial arrangements were made.

At this first Committee meeting the principle of appointing sub-committees for specific objects was adopted, and this practice has been continued.

*Witte River, Eain's Kloof.*—The Chairman stated that he proposed to hand over his fishing rights on the Oostenberg stretch of the Witte River to the Society, if another proposal for local control fell through. (This was accomplished after some delay.)

Several Foundation Members had belonged to the dormant Western Districts Game & Trout Protection Association, and after lengthy negotiations they were able to bring about its dissolution and the donation of its records and funds to the Cape Piscatorial Society in November 1937. These funds, amounting to about £340, were then used in financing the first importation of smallmouth bass by sea from New York in October 1937—the nucleus of a species which spread over Southern Africa.