

MORETON BAY GAME FISH CLUB LTD.



The Magazine

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STOP PRESS

**Small Black Marlin
on the bite from
Mooloolaba to Gold Coast**



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Front Cover: Sophie Currey and Michael Stephens get a quick photo before releasing their tagged marlin at Point Lookout.

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The MBGFC Congratulates our long-standing Member Bill Edwards

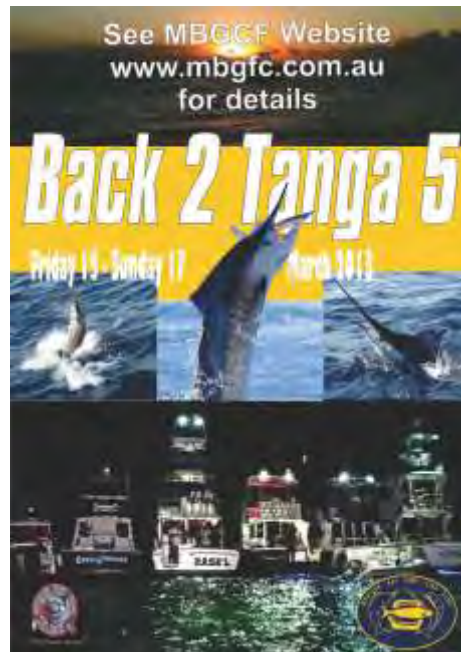
The Committee of the Cairns Game Fishing Hall of Fame has announced the induction of four distinguished new members for 2012.

Bob & Dolly Dyer
Jock Izatt
Capt. Bill Edwards

Once again the task of selecting appropriate inductees was difficult for the Committee. Nominators are thanked for their interest and enthusiasm and are assured that all nominations are held over for the next selection process.

The selection committee consists of Chairman; Captain Daniel McCarthy, Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association Inc.; Neil Patrick, Trustee, International Game Fish Association; Tim Simpson, General Manager and Editor, BlueWater Publishing Pty Ltd and John McIntyre, game fishing writer and historian.

The inductions into the Cairns Game Fishing Hall of Fame for 2012 were made at a function held at the Shangri-La Hotel, adjacent to the Marlin Wharf, Cairns on Saturday, 24th November 2012 and hosted by the Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association Inc.



MERCHANDISE

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President's Report



The constant replies I hear when asked how a person has been is, "Flat-out, I haven't had a chance to do anything." Well, Make Time! Get Organised, Plan a Trip, Go Fishing before time has passed us by.

We will soon have screens under each eyelid and our bodies will be controlled by chips that will make us think we are happy and the only fishing we will be involved with will be 'phishing'.

This season looks like it might be the season we have been waiting on for a long time. Good reports have filtered down from the north and if the fish continue south in the same numbers we should see plenty of tag cards and points rewarded.

For some boats, (mine especially) this will be a great chance to sort out crew and gear and have everything in readiness for 'Back To Tanga 5' which is only a few good fish away.

The planning for Back To Tanga 5 in mid March has already started. The club would be grateful for help with this event. This could be in the form of donations, sponsorship, labour, contacts or just ideas and suggestions.

This 'main event' we hold each year is a major contributing factor to the success of your Club. Your involvement with making

CHRISTMAS already!!! How quickly the years roll by. Time seems to be speeding up in direct proportion to the advancement in computers and the likes. The quicker and better they get, the less time we have for ourselves. Shouldn't it be the other way around? If this is so, where are we heading? How much real time have we left?

I think we all need to stop and take time out to appreciate, not what we have, but what we have left. The best way I know of doing this is to lock in a days fishing with family and friends and escape the 'Rat Race' for real 'Time Out'.



A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the MBGFC

this Tournament a bigger and better event will not only be rewarding personally, but will also help the club in making necessary improvements for all to enjoy.

Hope everyone's Christmas is Happy and Relaxing, (spend some time on the club land during the break and I am sure it will be) and I hope the New Year brings more 'days out' on the water.

Xmas cheers to all

Paul Ditchfield



Small black marlin have turned up in large numbers. Mooloolaba GFC comp in late November over 200 strikes were recorded and 42 fish tagged. Large bait schools from the 8 mile, Bribie Trench, and on eastern side of Cape Moreton all the way to Gold Coast in 15-30m of water are holding fish. At Point Lookout, on 1st December, large bait schools were holding blacks to 20kg in 25m of water. Now is time to target them and accumulate club points on 1-10kg tackle.

TROPHY WINNERS 2011 – 2012

CLUB CHAMPION TROPHY

Highest point score in Club Rallies - Michael Hutton

TUCK FANNING MEMORIAL TROPHY

Highest Point Scoring Angler - Sophie Currey

BRENTLY THEATRE TROPHY

Highest Female Point Score - Sophie Currey

GORDON WHITE TROPHY

Highest Junior Point Score - Charlotte Ditchfield

HARRY DANVERS TROPHY

First Marlin of the Season - John Shearer

GRAHAM BELL TROPHY

Most Longtail Tuna Tagged - Lindsay Scott

PRECISION TOOL & ENG TROPHY

Most Tagged Billfish - 4 Way Tie - John Shearer
Sophie Currey
Michael Hutton
Daniel Draper

VANCE HULL TROPHY

Heaviest Mackerel - Charlotte Ditchfield

BULLETIN EDITORS TROPHY

Highest Point Scoring Fish-Other Species -
Lindsay Scott

JOHN McCARTHY TROPHY

Highest Point Scoring Fish on 6kg - Not Won

PETER LEE TROPHY

Highest Point Scoring Fish on 8kg - Daniel Draper

CHAMPION BOAT OVER 8M

Boat with highest Aggregate Score - Reel Magic

CHAMPION BOAT UNDER 8M

Boat with highest Aggregate Score - Casper Two

SHIRLEY WHITE AWARD

Junior Encouragement Award - Louise Ditchfield

ROSS WOOD MEMORIAL AWARD

Carol Hutton

MAL RAMSAY MEMORIAL AWARD

Nick Currey



Lindsay Scott - Harry Danvers Trophy



Charlotte Ditchfield - Vance Hull Trophy



Charlotte Ditchfield - Gordon White Trophy



Chris, John & Sharyn Moore
Champion Boat under 8m - Casper 2



Carol Hutton - Ross Wood Memorial Award



The Ditchfield Family



Sophie Currey - Tuck Fanning Memorial
Trophy & Brently Theatre Trophy



Nick Currey - Mal Ramsay Memorial Award



Trophy Presentation & Christmas Party

Photos by Donna Beavis



MBGFC Team Competes at the 2012 Innisfail GFC Tournament

STORY - Nick Currey



THE 2012 light tackle season in North Queensland has been a cracker with huge numbers of small black marlin, the like that has not been seen for over 10 years.

In August, Cairns Bluewater GFC tournament based at Fitzroy Island tagged 128 billfish and in early September Townsville GFC competition tagged 160 billfish.

With reports of heaps of billfish still being tagged in the Cairns region, Nick and Sophie Currey contacted old fishing friends John and Brenda Pecl in Cairns to see if they were going to fish the Innisfail competition in late September. Having lived in Kuranda for 10 years from 1991, we used to fish many of the comps together including six at Innisfail.

As "runners up" at the Cairns comp in their 30ft boat "On Strike", a modified Mustang bridge deck with tower, John and Brenda were keen to go one better at Innisfail. The Innisfail comp includes three days fishing over Friday to Sunday with presentation on Sunday night.

With good weather forecast, we arrived up in barmy Cairns on the Thursday. John and Nick prepped the boat and left Blue Water Marina just after lunch for the 3 hour trip to Innisfail, with an aim to be there on a making tide at the Johnston River mouth (as it can get shallow and there are lots of sandbanks up into Innisfail CBD). The trip

down was uneventful and the scenery spectacular along the coast where the rainforest plunges into the ocean.

After rafting up against other boats parked along the river esplanade moorings, we made our way up to the Brothers League club (home of the legend Billy Slater) for the briefing and a feed (all meals and a fantastic lunch box were part of the registration).

With a record 34 boats competing, the room was packed. Free beer courtesy of XXXX was welcome, as the mandatory briefing took place and boats got the "skippers and shirt pacs". It was a great to catch up with all the North Qld fishos from the past, lots of familiar faces, most with less or greyer hair!

After chewing the fat, downing XXXX and a few rumbos it was time to stagger back to hotel next to the river. A early morning start at the local Coffee Club and pick up the lunch box we were off. Across the road and out to the boats for the mandatory sailpast – how easy is this! A tradition of Innisfail is "best dressed boat" and there were some rippers, with themes including witches and caldrons boiling (dry ice) out the duck board, nuns and priests, Gorillas (on MV Gorilla of course). The fleet milled around the river whist the local TV station buzzed it in a helicopter. Boats consisted of large 50' plus game boats (on their way to the heavy tackle season) down to 18' tinnies. With a start it was down the river with most of the town folk standing on the river bank, waving and cheering.





Sophie Currey about to get her sailfish tagged.



We had decided to fish up at the northern grounds, as the fish were previously holding up around Fitzroy Island and work the channels between the reefs that we were familiar with. With live bait balls being sparse it was a matter of searching and at "lines in" we went with a standard set of dead skip gars on the riggers and swim mullet and/or gar on the downrigger with teasers off the port stern and also ran one off the rigger with a sewn up tuna belly flap on the end.

It wasn't long before Sophie was hooked up to a good sail about 18kg which was tagged and we were on the board. Soon after a small black smacked the rigger gar but did not hook up. These fish were small in the 8-10kg range, and so they had trouble getting onto the bigger baits.

Soon after another black came up and ate the belly flap and tried to rip it off. Brenda quickly feedback a skip gar and when the black gave up trying to wrestle the teaser, there was fresh gar that he climbed all over with a good hook-up. Little blacks are spectacular and this one carved up the ocean jumping widely before being tamed, tagged and released.

And then it went quiet, as it often does on a tide change. At end of day one we were equal first with 2 billfish and some mackerel. With dinner back at the Leagues Club, talk centred around the "lack off" bait schools compared to 2 weeks prior and that fish were dispersed and also the higher water temperatures. Looked like it was going to be a tough comp!

Day 2 saw fantastic weather with a light 5 knot NE and clear skies and glassed out conditions. We headed back up to the northern grounds and the trolled mullet on the downrigger went off and Nick was into a feisty black. All was looking good until it jumped right at the back of the boat and spat the hook, which happens frequently when the ball sinker on the rig gets tossed around and quite often ends up in a lost fish.

Best technique with a hot jumper is to lower rod tip down towards water to keep them from jumping and hopefully keep the hooks in, great hindsight!

The day was slow, and Sophie then hooked up and tagged a small black marlin. With lines out at 4pm we motored back and found we had slipped to equal third, so day 3 was going to have to be a good one.

Day 3 saw great weather again and on the first sked, Wombino, the Collins family tagged two quick fish. Being local and having fished the comp for 30 years, all that



Nick Currey hooked up to a little black.



Brenda giving Sophie tips on rigging swim mullet.

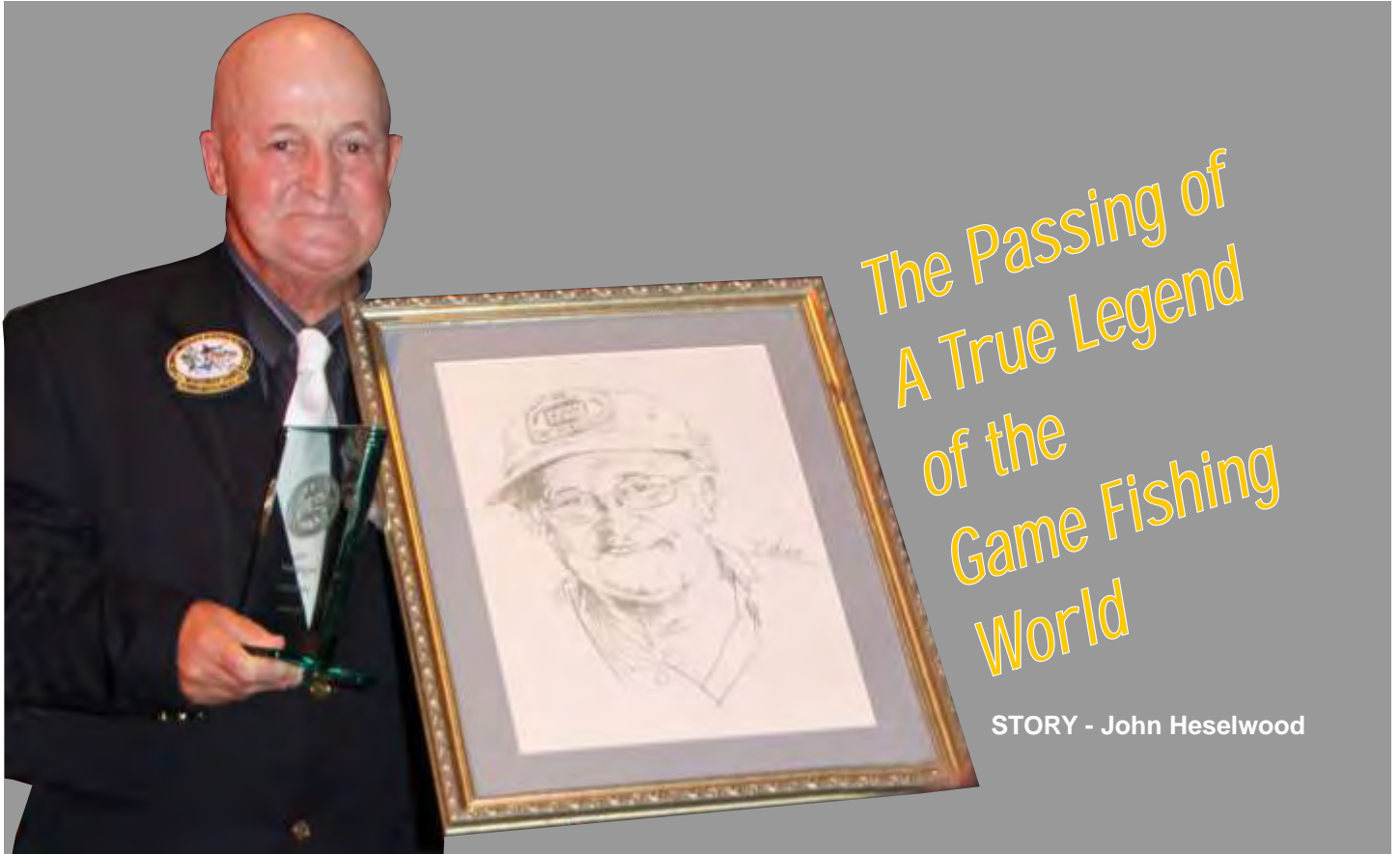


Sophie receiving the Female Champion Angler trophy.

knowledge came into play, we reckon they had a "honey spot" where the fish hang out. It was a slow day, and by late in afternoon we found a bait ball being harassed by small tuna, and had a strike from a black, but no hook-up. Working the area we figured the fish would turn-up, however, "lines out" call came too soon.

Presentation was at the Leagues Club and a great feed of local seafood and deserts. Champion boat was Wombino and they picked up a number of the prizes. We were chuffed when Sophie was announced champion female angler on a count back with her two billfish, collecting a Shimano Tiagra 30 and a 60L Evacool Esky in Qld

Maroons colours. As for the boat, we came fourth, just pipped by 20 points by a mackerel. All in all, a well-run competition and was great to catch up with lots of mates from 10 years ago. As for next year, I reckon the Cairns Fitzroy comp is beckoning as "lots more fish", and the island resort experience. Let's see if the fish turn up.



FOR well over 30 years, the name Jack Erskine has been synonymous with cutting edge fishing tackle innovations, light-tackle fishing records and many important contributions not only in fishing waters around his home town of Cairns, but all over the world.

Sadly, after suffering ill health over the last couple of years, Jack passed away in his sleep on 17 July this year in Springfield, Missouri, whilst in the US negotiating a new business venture.

Widely known by his clients and anglers as 'Erko', Jack was a longtime technical consultant for AFTCO, Penn Tackle, Fin-Nor and Bass Pro Shops. He was particularly noted for his expertise in drag systems, especially in the big reels used for the giant black marlin that Cairns is famous for.

In 2009, in recognition of his lifetime devotion to the sport of game fishing, the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) inducted Jack Erskine into the hall of fame, joining the likes of American author Ernest Hemmingway. He was inducted into the Cairns Fishing Hall of Fame in 2008.

I first met Jack back in the late 70s when I started fishing the MBGFC game fishing tournament out of Tangalooma on Moreton Island off the coast of Brisbane. I was new to the sport and the one thing that immediately struck me was his willingness to help and share his knowledge.

I produced and filmed a television documentary on Jack a couple of years later and during that filming I was inspired by his rod building prowess and started building my own game rods. Over the years that hobby developed into a business, and even though I was competing in the same market, Jack was always willing to give advice and help with the sourcing of various specialist parts. In fact we became very good friends.

Even though Jack was at the top of the tree when it came to anything fishing related, Erko was really a humble man.

The last time I sat down with him was a few weeks before he left for the States to be inducted by the IGFA. We met over breakfast at the end of a fishing tournament at Port Hinchinbrook and reminisced about the days gone by and talked about what it meant to him to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"It really hasn't sunk in to be quite honest but the closer it is to becoming a reality, the more I realise how important this honour is," Jack said. "It is not only me - people say you did this and you did that - but I have had the help of a lot of good people along the way. No one individual can do it all but I am very very grateful to be given this honour and be up there with people, who as a kid, were my heroes and mentors. Like me they might be a bit old and tattered but they are now personal friends."

He said that the thing he valued most out of fishing was the friends he made over the years.

"The great people I have met and the really great friends have made it all worthwhile. When I was really down and out and having problems they came from everywhere offering their help. That meant a lot to me," Jack added.

"When I accept the honour of being inducted, I will say that it is not just for me but for a lot of very good people who have helped me."

So just how did Jack become involved in the world game fishing scene?

"I was reading articles about Cairns written by Vic McCrystal who was a person I looked up to so I thought I would go up and have a look," explained Jack. "I got there and started talking with George Bransford who spoke the same language as me - he was very mechanical minded as well - and he said you better move up here. I went back home and didn't have a second thought as I knew that this is where the future would be. I left a much better paying job and went to Cairns. I've enjoyed every minute of it ever since that day."

He said it was amazing to see where the industry has come from - from the days where it first started to the evolution of the tackle and the equipment.

"I think the good part about it all is that Cairns was a proving ground. If you made a new gaff or something you could get it out and have an answer back in a week. They would catch 30 or 40 big fish on it, where as in other parts of the world that would take a year."

Jack said they had their dramas with many failures but that was what you expected until you got it right to stand up to the type of fishing available.

"I feel quite good in the fact that I can still walk around game boats and see things that we did back in the 70s are still cutting edge today. It is amazing that they are still using stuff today that I designed all those years ago. When you look at the stuff we went through with the development of products, lines, gaffs and all sorts of things. They were all pretty shocking when I first became involved. They were using old Penn Senators and couldn't find a rod that wouldn't break."

That is really how it all started. George Bransford was using Fin-Nor rods on the big black marlin and could not stop breaking them, so Jack thought he could do something about that and built him a 130lb outfit, which is still in use today.

"It was then George said you better come here and we opened a tackle shop," Jack explains. "We had 27 grand I think, which today would not fill a fish hook. We winged it for the first couple of years but the money thing was nothing, it was the involvement and the excitement of the whole Cairns fishing scene."

Jack's reputation as a big game rod builder soon became known worldwide.

"We built rods for Kings, Arab Princes and other people in high places," he proudly says. "We used to get a lot of work from the government. If someone was coming to Australia who was a 'big-wig', I would get a call to say we need a rod for this person."

Jack can certainly boast to having more firsts than anybody else in the industry.

"We were first with curved butts and we were the first with the sorts of rod blanks required to stand up to the sort of fishing we were doing. I designed the double roller Fin-Nor guide."

He points out that these are not things that just happened overnight, they took a lot of time in development.

"The interesting story was with the old 130 Fin-Nor guides. They used to just have a bar across the top and we made these little rollers that went in across the top, as most times when using the heavy 'stump-pullers', the line would not sit on the back roller. I made these little things and I went over to the Fin-Nor factory in the states



where we designed the double roller. We had hundreds of these rods running around with these old back guides, so I bought them all in and at the time we tore the top guide off and pop riveted the double guide on."

The one big stand-out thing that Jack set out to do was develop a top class rod that would stand up to the Cairns big game fishing action, as there was just nothing around.

"I went to the States with a company called Bill Boyds Tackle and they showed me the first epoxy finishes I ever saw. That stuff is still available today.

"In those days when we were building the big rods we would put 16 coats of epoxy on them. That was one of my pet achievements - to make a really good rod finish. Yes I made them look pretty, but they had to be functional. We would design new reel seats and make them here if we couldn't get them from overseas.

"I started making my own curved butts as I

couldn't get them. Actually the curve butt was illegal when I first got into the gamefishing scene. Friends of ours in America, Biscayne Rods, got on to those very nice leather grips and supplied them to us, so we were the first here to use them."

What Erko found exciting was when he could see something that could be improved and took up the challenge.

"I am really not a heavy tackle person. I have really only caught two fish on heavy stuff but I would go out chasing the big stuff and sit on the flybridge and observe how everything worked," he said.

"I would see something that I could make work better or something that needed modifying. It is amazing when you go out there and spend two or three weeks watching and you come back with all these bright ideas that you think you can make work."

In most cases he did make them work, especially reels.



Jack being congratulated by legendary Game Boat Skipper Laurie Woodbridge.

"My life was spent overhauling Fin-Nor reels every night of the week when I went up to Cairns. If you were using the Everol reel you would have to service it every second day. I think of the stage to where we have reels today. It has come a very long way from those very early pioneering days," he proudly explained.

"If you have not been through those times it is pretty hard to appreciate it. When you now go into a shop and buy a Penn, Shimano, Fin-Nor or whatever, you are now buying a great piece of equipment. I just think that advancement of tackle overall has been very rewarding for me."

Jack had been associated with Penn since 1970 when they were having problems with their reels at the time. He was responsible for many of the refinement of the International series game reels and Spinfishers which have undergone some serious upgrades over the years.

At the end of 1994 Jack went to the US and worked for Johnny Morris of Bass Pro Shops fame, for about a year. In a consulting role, he helped Morris set up his Offshore Angler operation - the world's largest retailer of fishing tackle. But he found big business on the US scale wasn't always to his liking.

"Having been my own boss since I was 22, I found it difficult to cope with the US corporate business structure," he explained.

During his period in the US, he lived at Springfield, Missouri, Atlanta, Georgia and Pompano Beach, Florida where he started working two weeks a month for reel company, Fin-Nor. He was in engineering and worked on product development of drag systems and a new spin and fly reel series. The other two weeks a month he worked for US line company, Sufix.

A year later, he was appointed US National Sales Manager for Sufix fishing line and stayed for two and a half years. It was then Penn Reels and its Australian partner,

Jarvis Walker, approached Jack to return to Australia.

For all his technical wizardry, Jack was primarily an angler - one of our finest light tackle specialists. A founding member of the Australian National Sportfishing Association, he participated in all forms of fresh and saltwater fishing, nationally and internationally, for more than 40 years. He was a regular at Tangalooma.

Whether it's billfish on fly off Cairns, barramundi at Tinaroo Dam or tarpon in Costa Rica, he's done most of it. I asked him if he recalls his first game fishing experience.

"The first gamefish I ever caught was out of Sydney when me and Billy Phipps - who by the way taught me so much as he was a real master of light tackle - got amongst a school of striped tuna. I had a real ball," he says.

"The first decent marlin I caught was when I moved to Cairns. I became good friends with Laurie Woodbridge and was out with him when I hooked a 72 pounder using 12 pound tackle."

His most memorable day's fishing was the day he caught eight billfish on two kilo tackle which gave him four consecutive world records.

"Then I went down to Tangalooma where I fished with Bobby Jones and caught an 85 pound sailfish on two kilo tackle. That was an incredible day. I had eight bites, I caught seven and broke the line on one."

Catching his first metre long barra was another memorable time etched in his history book. "I have caught 77 over a metre since," he proudly said.

He's been a long time advocate of saltwater spinning tackle for billfish and other gamefish. In the early 1970s Jack pioneered the successful introduction of heavy duty spinning tackle for casting live baits (pitch baiting) to sailfish and small marlin. Today the use of spinning tackle for

both live baiting and trolling for the smaller species of billfish is popular around the globe.

Internationally acclaimed Charter Boat Captain Laurie Wright has fished all over the globe and has been captain on some of the finest sportfishing vessels afloat in his long career.

"As a charter captain in the world's leading heavy tackle fishery, I had to be sure that my tackle was the best it could be and continue to function right throughout a tough season where large black marlin and weather conditions test it to the limit," said Wright.

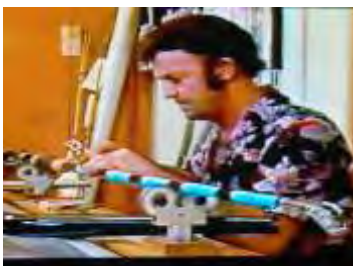
"Jack Erskine upgraded my reels and rods for over twenty three years and as new materials and technology become available Jack would immediately advise that it would be worth trying."

Jack's skill at tackle engineering is legendary, but it was his willingness to share his knowledge to up and coming anglers, captains and crew that also had the respect of the game fishing fraternity world wide.

Until his passing, Jack 'Erko' Erskine and his wife ran Precision Reel Engineering, a highly technical reel-tuning business in Cairns. They operated from a small but ultra-modern workshop that many in the reel repair business considered the finest equipped machine shop in the Australian tackle industry.

Jack was born in Bourke, in western NSW and grew up in Sydney. He worked as an apprentice motor mechanic for BHP before moving into the tackle trade in 1967, when he was 22. His first job in the fishing world was with Arthur Chapman's Sport Store in Rockdale, Sydney.

We have now truly lost a real legend in the game fishing world - and for many, a great friend.



MARLIN

The following is an article written by past President Jim Kemp and published in the November 1964 of the then Club magazine "Fighting Fish".

WITH the marlin season practically with us, there is no doubt many new members, and for that matter, older members who haven't tried this type of fishing, keen enough to have a try at the swordies this season. It's relatively simple and provided you can be lucky enough to find your fish, then you're practically in business, as long as you understand the basic tactics involved.

Lots of chaps have asked if there are marlin off our coast. There are stacks of them. Perhaps you'll say – why, then, haven't many been caught? That too, is quite obvious; there aren't many members, who are prepared to pass up a bit of bottom fishing or trolling for small game fish, in order to concentrate wholly and solely on marlin. It's only one weekend and if you're in the peak of the season, which I feel is earlier here in Queensland than elsewhere – about late January – then it can be a worthwhile experience.

In spite of what you may have read about marlin being fussy, there are many, many stories to the contrary. Perhaps with baits they'll be choosy and fiddle, knocking them out of the outrigger clips for the sheer hell of it. That's just your misfortune. By and large, if you play your cards correctly, you've got the odds on your side for a hook up. Your first indication will probably be the tip of a fin protruding some three or four inches above the water, and behind the bait. Or, on the other hand, the same thing could happen as happened to John Pickles at port Stephens – a great swirl on the surface and a 234lb. black marlin with his mouth wide open caught red handed in the act of swallowing a three pound tailor was what we saw. This chap didn't mince matters – he knew what he wanted and meant to get it.

After the fish has taken the bait and broken the line free from the outrigger clip, it's a matter of patience. In most cases he will swim slowly away with the bait and may stop to swallow it. In other cases, he won't. That's when you've got to decide when to strike. If you hit him too early, then out pops the bait from his mouth. If you give him stacks of line – a good idea if you're in the least doubt – then you could be in business. When you consider your fish has sufficient line out and has and has presumably swallowed the bait – strike him and strike him hard. Many game fishermen use the boat gunned full ahead until a tight line is bought up to strike the fish.

Presumably now you've had your strike, have let your fish run for enough, and hit him. When he feels the hook, the obvious indication that he feels something is that grand rush to the surface and subsequent leaps and tail-walks. If you haven't seen the display these glorious speedsters can put on, then you've got a treat in store. Tuck Fanning's 104lb. black marlin on 9 at Port Stephens some three years ago, put on 17 consecutive leaps. It's a sight you don't forget in a hurry. What needs to be done now is to keep as tight a line as possible on your fish, until you can ascertain just where he is hooked. Bleeding will indicate that the hook has penetrated beyond the throat, and the subsequent loss of blood will enable you to boat your fish quicker. But if he is hooked in the mouth, look out for the fireworks. I hooked a black of 90/100lbs. off Point Lookout last January on 6 thread in the corner of the jaw, and spent three and a half hours, with the fish coming out the winner. Admittedly we had him to the boat in an hour and a half, but he caught sight of the hull and sheered off, never again coming within 40 feet of it.

I fail to see how some of these marlin are bought to gaff in some ten minutes or so on three thread without either one of two things happening. Either the fish is hooked deep and the hook, in some spot past his throat, forces him to give in quietly – or the boatman races his boat all over the ocean and runs the fish down with the fisherman just sitting back taking up the slack line. Maybe I'm sticking my neck out, but I'd like to see a 100lb black marlin on three thread brought in LEGITIMATELY in ten minutes. For my part I can't see it being fair dinkum. But I'm open to correction if someone can supply me with proof.

After hooking your fish, it's simply a matter of keeping a tight line on him and wearing him down.

With 9 thread it's possible – and in most cases better – to use a rod bucket to enable you to move quickly to counter any sudden rush the fish may give. Gaffing should be no problem, as long as you don't make a golf shot at it. Gaff the fish in the shoulder, and mean what you're doing.

Now for baits. If you're an artificial bait man, then no doubt you will have knuckleheads, available from most sports stores. Feathers are quite acceptable as are

drones. Put it this way – If the swordie is hungry and you drag something quickly past him, then its pounds to pennies you will get a hit. Weather or not you hook up is a different matter. The mouth of the marlin is hard and horny and to drive a hook well home with an artificial bait, you'll need to sock him hard. When you're trolling with artificial baits, set your drag as heavily as you dare, and one of two things will happen – either you hook him, or you don't. It's as simple as that.

I have seen some four ounce feathers which have been cut diagonally from the top face down at an angle to the point where the wire or nylon enters the front of the lure. This oblique flat surface gives an action similar to that of a knucklehead, and if you wish, it's easy enough to experiment to see what can be done to make different lures work in the right manner.

You will hear many ideas on correct speeds to troll both artificial lures and baits, and your own experience will tell you which to choose to suit particular conditions. Knuckleheads should be trolled at a fairly fast clip, up to 12 knots. There's only one way to troll a drone, and that's deep down at slow speed. At 2-3 knots, they work beautifully. At faster speeds you'll get more action, but I fancy they don't work as efficiently.

Concerning bait fishing for marlin, we're not as fortunate as the Port Stephens boys in being able to spend half an hour or so trolling and to pick up several nice bonito baits. The marlin take these baits readily, but if any bait is rigged properly, it will do the job equally as good. There are plenty of squire to 2lbs or so and they troll like charms if rigged the New Zealand reverse hook method. For that matter, any fish shaped similarly will run well. Several days before the last ALL Australian competition, I was short of bait and rigged a sweep, and while fishing from Doug Henwood's "Markudla" had a strike from a marlin.

Many of the Club Mackerel fishermen who rig whole or part tailor might be well advised to try this particular bait trolled upright as they normally do, for marlin. I've never seen more natural bait. If rigged properly, these whole tailor could tempt the devil himself. Whether or not they are too soft and fall apart when the marlin is yet to be seen. It would be interesting to find out just what would

happen to a tailor taken off the ice, when it was hit by a marlin.

In case you are not familiar with the reverse hook method, here's how it goes. Insert your hook in the back of the fish about an inch or so below the back fin so that the point is facing the tail. You'll need to judge it so the eye of the hook coincides with the narrowest point of the tail. Tie a strong cord through the eye of the hook and around the tail. The trace is then taken along the back of the fish high up, and with a packing needle, and cord, secure it in two places about half an inch or so below the back fin.

With the packing needle pierce the gills of the bait fish and tie these firmly to prevent water entering the stomach of the fish, and thus causing it to burst. With a sharp knife make a perpendicular incision from top to bottom jaw, leaving a cut about 1/8 of an inch or so deep.

Take your packing needle, and with cord that will break under 15lbs or so, pierce the bottom jaw, coming out on the top jaw. Remove the needle and tie the jaws firmly together, leaving about 5 or 6 inches of cord free. This cord is then tied to the trace, making sure that the distance from the cord to the knot where it is tied on the trace is less than the length of the trace from the jaw

to the knot. In other words, make sure that the bait fish pulls on the cord and not on the trace.

The theory is that the marlin strikes the fish with his bill, breaking the tie at the mouth and swallows the fish headfirst, not feeling the hook. When the strike is made and the fish tries to eject the bait, then the hook – in coming out point first – does the job. Whether or not the two ties on the back fin high up break at the time of the fish's strike on the bait or when the angler hits the fish is problematical. When the fish reverses and is swallowed head first, you'll see the need for a good strong tie at the tail. If all other ties are broken – and in most cases they are – then the only thing that keeps the bait and hook together is the cord around the tail – hence it should be strong.

There are other methods also, but I feel that the one just mentioned is practically universally used and generally accepted. One you can use with a smaller bait and with a 150lb nylon trace, which is sometime used when the swordies are a bit shy, is this one. Take a bait, preferably a small yellowtail up to eight inches long and with your marlin hook, which should be a small one, insert the point of the hook in the mouth of the bait fish, and bring it through the gills, causing as little damage as

possible. Pull several feet of nylon through the mouth and out the gills after the hook. Then take the hook and insert it again in the gills, bringing it out as far down the fish as possible.

All that's needed then is to pull the nylon back through the mouth and sew the gills and mouth up. This is sometimes a little difficult with such a small fish, but is worth the trouble. Being such a small bait, marlin usually swallow the lot in one gulp and don't feel the little hook until it goes in, and by that time it's too late.

The old method of tying off the gills and mouth as normal and trolling the fish with the hook about an inch or so through the lips is satisfactory, but if the old shark comes up and takes the bait, you'll end up with just a head of your hook and no shark.

Drifting in the summertime is sometimes quite productive and you can't go past live bait for this, preferably a live squire down deep. You could hook a shark, but what a difference – it's all fishing. So there you have it. Why not get out and take a shot at the swordies this season. If you get half as much kick out of catching your first marlin as I did – then it's really worth something.

Jim Kemp

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PLEASE READ THE RULES OF USE On the inside back page of this magazine

MORETON BAY GAME FISH CLUB LTD

P.O. BOX 371, CAPALABA, QLD., 4157

CLUB LAND BOOKING FORM

Members Name..... Contact phone while on Island.....

Booking For TENT SITE CARAVAN

Date In Date Out

Tent Site Base Rate (Member)

2 Adults & 2 Children) Nights @ \$35.00 Per Night Sub Total \$.....

Tent Site Base Rate (Guests)

2 Adults & 2 Children Nights @ \$45.00 Per Night Sub Total \$.....

Caravan Base Rate

2 Adults & 2 Children Nights @ \$50.00 Per Night Sub Total \$.....

Extra Adults Nights @ \$10.00 Per Night per Adult Sub Total \$.....

Extra Children Nights @ \$ 5.00 Per Night per Child Sub Total \$.....

TOTAL \$.....

Please Note that fees must be paid in advance and bookings will not be held or confirmed until payment in full is made.
 Effective 1 July 2012

KAIZEN FISHING CHARTERS



Light tackle - Black Marlin, Sailfish, various Tunas, Dolphin Fish (Mahi Mahi), Wahoo, Mackerel, Cobia.

Cairns to Lizard Island - September to December, Giant Black Marlin season including a host of other fishing options from casting poppers at GTs to bottom bouncing.

North Queensland Coast - Generally on the way up to Cairns in the Whitsundays Townsville region light tackle fishing including Hamilton Island and Townsville tournaments.

Port Stephens - December to April, Heavy tackle, Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Dolphin Fish (Mahi Mahi) and other species.

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1. Fish must be captured or tagged in accordance with the MBGFC rules, which will follow the rules of G.F.A.A. MBGFC rules include the following key points;
 - a. A fish gaffed for weighing points cannot subsequently be tagged and released;
 - b. Every effort should be made to release tagged fish in a state where they will survive;
 - c. Capture of game fish species will comply with Qld DPI Fisheries bag limits and minimum/maximum sizes (http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/28_3042.htm);
 - d. All edible fish to be weighed for points may be gilled and gutted on capture and an additional 10% is added to the weight of the fish;
 - e. Sharks (as per Qld Fisheries) - "cannot be in possession over 1.5m in length". Sharks under 1.5m can be weighed, however, MBGFC encourages tagging of all sharks;
 - f. Billfish conservation is important for the species and MBGFC promotes tag and release of all billfish, unless the fish is likely to be a record;
 - g. All QGFA, GFAA, IGFA potential records claims must comply with GFAA rules.
2. MBGFC fishing grounds are "Queensland local" waters which is defined as a line east of Point Danger (Qld/NSW border in the south) and a line east of Double Island Point (in the north).
3. Light tackle (1 to 10kg) line test may be used in all waters.
4. Heavy tackle (15 – 60kg) can only be used in waters greater than 100m in depth.
5. Fish captures or tagging will only be accepted by MBGFC only if;
 - a. Claims are submitted on the Club's capture notification form on which all details are recorded;
 - b. Is submitted together with appropriate completed NSW DPI Tag Card for tagged fish;
 - c. Is submitted to the Club Secretary, P.O. Box 371, Capalaba, Qld 4157;
 - d. Is received by the Club Secretary no later than one month after capture/tagging.
6. Members are encouraged to support scientific investigation by Fisheries Authorities.
7. Sportsman ship and consideration to others should be the mark of MBGFC members.
8. All boat skippers have a duty of care to ensure their vessels are seaworthy, insured and safety of the vessel and crews are first consideration.

MBGFC CLUB POINTS

Capture points listed for Billfish apply only for captures in excess of following:

Marlin (Blue, Black, Broadbill Swordfish) – 100kg, Marlin (Striped) – 75kg, Sailfish – 35kg. Points halved below these weights.

Line Class (kg)	LIGHT TACKLE							HEAVY TACKLE			
	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	15	24	37	60
Billfish Tag points	5000	4000	3000	2500	2000	1500	1000	3000	2500	2000	1500
Billfish Capture Points/kg	150	75	50	35	25	15	10	50	35	15	10
Tuna –Longtail/Yellowfin											
Tuna Tag points	1200	800	600	500	400	300	200	150	100	100	100
Tuna Capture Points/kg	150	75	50	35	25	15	10	7.5	5	3	2
Other Species Tag Point	500	400	300	250	200	150	100	75	75	75	75
Other Species Capt. Pts/kg	100	50	35	25	20	15	10	7.5	5	3	2
Sharks Tag points	500	400	300	250	200	150	100	75	75	75	75
Sharks Capture Points/kg	100	50	35	25	20	15	10	7.5	5	3	2

MORETON BAY GAME FISH CLUB LTD

Please address all correspondence to:
 Honorary Secretary
 Moreton Bay Game Fish Club Ltd.
 P.O. Box 371
 Capalaba Qld 4157

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Note - Date of Birth is only required if applying for Junior Membership.

I / We	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAMES	PREFERED CHRISTIAN NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	MEMBERSHIP TYPE REQUIRED	SIGNATURE
Mr Mrs Miss						
Mr Mrs Miss						
Mr Mrs Miss						
Mr Mrs						

Of.....Postcode.....
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whose signature appears above, hereby apply for membership of the Club in the category listed and agree, if accepted by the Club, to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Club.

Proposer's Name..... Secunder's Name.....

Proposer's Signature..... Secunder's Signature.....

Boat Name: State Membership in any other Boating or Fishing Club:-

Boat Type:

Length: Radios:

ENTRY FEE & SUBSCRIPTIONS		1st July - 30th June Full Year	After 1st January Half Year	
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Junior Member (Under 16 Years)@	\$20.00@ \$20.00	\$
Affiliate Member@	\$80.00@ \$60.00	\$
Additional Affiliate Member@	\$60.00@ \$40.00	\$
Club PoloShirts Short Sleeve	Size..... Qty..... @		\$35.00 each	\$

Cheque / Cash Attached _____

Effective 1 July 2012

MORETON BAY GAME FISH CLUB LTD. MORETON ISLAND CLUB HOUSE AND LAND RULES

Effective 1st July 2012

1. All members wishing to use the Club facilities must notify the Secretary to obtain approval. Approval will only be considered if the Member has already signed a Form 37 for the current financial year or when the application is accompanied with an "Application for permission of MBGFC Ltd to enter upon land at Moreton Island" form (37). If applicant is under the age of 18 year the application form must be signed by their legal guardian as well as the applicant themselves if able to do so. Each person staying at the Club land must sign a separate form. All fees are to be paid in advance. **Club Land is for the use of members and their immediate family only (immediate family is partner and children).** Members may invite guests to stay at the club land on a one off introduction basis. These guests would be expected to join the club if revisiting.
2. All fees are payable in advance and are:
Members Tent Sites: \$35.00 per night includes 2 adults & 2 children plus \$10.00 per extra adult and \$5.00 per extra child on the same site.
Guests Tent Sites: \$45.00 per night includes 2 adults & 2 children plus \$10.00 per extra adult and \$5.00 per extra child on the same site.
Caravan: \$50.00 per night includes 2 adults & 2 children plus \$10.00 per extra adult and \$5.00 per extra child.
Moorings: Use of moorings is free for club members but if clubhouse facilities (showers & bbq etc.) are used, a fee of \$10.00 per day per person will apply.
3. Bookings will only be accepted through the Club Secretary as below but fees must be paid in advance before booking will be confirmed.
Postal: P.O. Box 371, Capalaba Qld 4157 **Email:** webbind@bigpond.net.au
4. **ACCESS TO LAND AND USE OF VEHICLES AND TRAILERS:** All access is via the access road. Under no circumstances is the Western Bank to be used to and from the beach. Erosion is severe and Members must ensure that no children climb up or down the bank. No vehicles or trailers are to be driven on Club Land (except for unloading & loading) and all Members are requested to park vehicles in an orderly fashion allowing room for others.
5. **SHOWERS AND TOILETS:** Members are requested to hose out these areas daily and to use the stainless steel troughs to wash sand off feet before entering.
6. **BARBECUES:** The barbecues are to be thoroughly cleaned after use including drip trays and burners.
7. **KITCHEN:** The facilities are available and all refrigeration and freezer units are to be left open when no longer in use and power is to be turned off. All kitchen utensils, counters, fridges and floors must be cleaned upon departure from the Club Land.
8. **RUBBISH:** All rubbish is to be removed from Club Land either to the public dump at Cowan or taken off the island. Fish are only to be cleaned on the outside stainless steel bench and thoroughly cleaned after use. All frames and gut are to be immediately disposed of in the sea, but not in area immediately in front of Club land.
9. **POWER:** Some sites are powered. Generator running times are Morning - 3 Hours, Evening - Sunset until 10 pm. Extension of times will be at the discretion of a Committee Member.
10. **WATER:** Numerous taps are located around Club Land. Please use the sprinklers when possible.
11. **GENERATOR SHED:** Generator is to be run morning and evenings only and is to be shut down at 10.00pm latest. The generator shed is not to be used for storage of anything whatsoever.
12. **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Members are requested to spend a little time carrying out any maintenance needed, if it is within their capabilities. Also gardening and site upkeep for the benefit of all and preservation of the area.
13. **FIREWOOD:** Moreton Island is a declared National Park and the cutting and gathering of wood is prohibited.
14. **ABUSE OF RULES:** Committee Members have the authority to ask any tenants on Club property to leave should any abuse of the above rules occur. The Committee will act on such matter.
15. **VEHICLE PERMITS:** Permits must be obtained to take your vehicle on Moreton Island.



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