



Biography of Colin Gladwyn Scheepers written by Julian Pybus.

Being asked to present the biography of Colin Scheepers is one of the great honours of my life. As an angler and as a person, Colin is a person of true inspiration. Always humble and willing to help others he has achieved what most of us will only dream about. During my own angling career I was fortunate to be able to spend time with him and during this time I have tried to understand what it is that he does so well. I'm still trying to work it out but I think it can only be attributed to hard work, lots of practice, confidence in his own ability and a level of simplicity that limits confusion. All I can say is "WOW".

Early Life.

Colin Scheepers was born in East London on the 15th July 1955. He was schooled at President Primary School and Matriculated from The East London Technical High School in 1973. From here, in 1983 he completed his tertiary education and attained his National Higher Certificate for Technicians, completing T1 to T4.

On the 10th June 1978 he married his life partner Thalia Topliss. The couple were blessed with two children, a daughter Claire born in 1981 and a son Ryan born in 1983.

Colin's Working Career.

1974 – Started his Diesel Electrical Fitter Apprenticeship with the South African Railways & Harbours.
1976 - He qualified as an Artisan.

1977 – Colin took a promotional transfer to Pretoria as an Engineering Draughtsman, but soon realized that he could not live away from the sea, and reverted back to East London as an Artisan.

1989 – He was appointed as an Engineering Draughtsman.

1992 – He was appointed as an Engineering Assistant.

2015 – He was appointed as Business Manager for Locomotives.

2018 – Colin retired to take up fishing full time.

Colin's Sporting Career:

Colin was always an avid sportsman, being both extremely competitive and fair.

He played school rugby and took part in cross country running and excelled in both. In 1974 he started playing rugby for the Cambridge Rugby Club and represented Border, both at U20 level and later at Senior Provincial level.

In his own words, "In those days, my passion for fishing was so all encompassing that often I would leave straight after a rugby game to go fishing on the Western Wall. Club socializing was not a priority in my life, fish scales were!!!!!"

His Road Running career was equally impressive. He started running in 1986 and over the following years completed numerous sub three hour standard 42.2km Marathons, three Comrades Marathons (90kms) in which he achieved Two Silver Medals, (sub 7 and a half hours) and one Bronze medal, and in addition a Two Oceans Marathon in which he achieved a bronze medal.

Colin's Angling Career:

Colin's angling career is the stuff of legend. He grew up in Quigney, East London, living close to the sea, and spent most of his summer school holidays at the beach or on the beach front. Many days were spent collecting specimen and bait fish for the East London Aquarium. He started fishing with rod and reel on the East London's Orient Beach pier.

In his teen years, he started fishing on the Western Wall on the West Bank and acted as "gilly" for the senior fishermen, including his older brother, Roland. He modestly claims that he gained his fishing knowledge from these men, most of whom represented Border Rock & Surf Angling at various times.

He eventually started to participate in the Border leagues by representing East London Angling Association and in 1979 he was selected for the Border team.

In his first National Championships at Mossel Bay in 1979, he was placed 4th out of the Top Eight. Thereafter, he represented Border Senior Angling for 32 consecutive years until 2010. During this remarkable career he was Border Senior Champion 11 times, Border Masters Champion 6 times and Grand Masters Champion twice.

Within the Border League, he achieved 19 Top Angler Awards (initially Top 8 and later Top 10). He claims to not remember how many top placings he achieved at National Championship level but recalls being Champion Angler at both the SWA Nationals and at one of the Border Nationals.

After he progressed to the Masters Division, he represented the Border Masters Team from 2006 to 2020, 15 years consecutively, and ended in the Top 6 on eight occasions. This included a few number one positions.

In 2019 he participated in his first Grand Masters Nationals, achieving top honours as champion angler. This resulted in his becoming the first angler to be the champion angler in all three senior Divisions.

The irony of angling is that even the best can experience occasions when they fail to perform and this happened to him in two consecutive National Championships in 2003 and 2004 where he failed to catch any fish. In his words: "This set back made me more determined to strive to achieve, therefore turning adversity into triumph."

Not only was Colin an amazing angler but he also played his part in the administrative side of angling. He served as a member on the Border Rock & Surf Committee for many years and also in the capacity of Treasurer for ten years.

When it came to sharing his knowledge, Colin was never selfish, and served on the Management Team as Coach for various Junior Nationals during which he was privileged to be able to assist many young anglers to obtain their Protea colours. In addition, I had the privilege to work with him when he undertook to act as Guide for the Zululand Senior Side at the National Championships from 2017 to 2019.

Colin's Springbok/Protea Career:

Colin's International career is something to simply marvel over. No other angler in the history of South African angling has even come close to what Colin has achieved.

In 1983 he was selected to represent South Africa at the FIPS World Championships held in Malaga, Spain and finished the tournament as runner-up to the World Champion. The South African Team ended in 4th position.

Thereafter he attended a further 4 World Championships at various venues. He also received an additional 21 South African Senior Caps, 18 as an angler and 3 as coach. He also represented South African Masters on 7 occasions.

His achievements are as follows:

Represented South Africa.

- 1981 - South African Games - A Team in Durban - No colours awarded
- 1983 - FIPS World Championships in Spain - Runner-up
- 1988 - Three Venue International against Austria in South West Africa, Cape Town and East London – Overall top angler.
- 1992 - Two Venue International against England (Cape Town and Port Elizabeth)
- 1995 - Namibia in Cape Town - Captain.
- 1997 - Namibia in Durban. (Cape Vidal)
- 1998 - Namibia in Namibia.
- 1999 - Namibia in Port Elizabeth.
- 2000 - Namibia in Namibia
- 2001 - Namibia in Mossel Bay
- 2002 - Namibia in Namibia
- 2004 - Namibia in Namibia - Coach
- 2005 - Namibia in Struisbaai - Coach
- 2006 - Namibia in Namibia - Coach
- 2007 - Namibia in Port Elizabeth
- 2008 - Namibia in Namibia
- 2009 - Namibia Masters in Port Elizabeth
- 2010 - World Championships in Langebaan
- 2010 - Namibia Seniors in Namibia - December 2010
- 2011 - Namibia Masters in Port Elizabeth
- 2012 - World Championships in Holland - October 2012
- 2012 - Namibia Masters in Namibia - December 2012
- 2013 - World Championships in Spain - October 2013
- 2013 - Namibia Masters in Port Elizabeth - December 2013
- 2014 - World Championship in France - September 2014
- 2014 - Namibia Masters in Namibia - December 2014
- 2015 - Namibia Masters in Port Elizabeth - December 2015
- 2016 - Missed International - Went to London to visit daughter
- 2017 - Namibia Masters in Namibia - December 2017

In total – 28 : 18 Senior caps as an angler, 3 as a coach and 7 in the Masters division.

With such a stellar career it was inevitable that Colin would achieve recognition from his community, and so in 1987 he was awarded the **South African Breweries Knights Award for Sportsman of the Year and the Border Kei Chamber of Business/Vodacom Award for Senior Sportsman (Amateur).**

Colin's Philosophy:

“To enjoy this great sport, be humble, have a teachable spirit, keep on learning, never give up and know that you are always only one cast away from success.”

Colossians 3 verse 23 states: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving”.

By Julian Pybus