

Commodore's Letter: July 2017

Hi fellow club members

With winter now truly on us, our green problem on the dam is becoming distinctly brown. Unfortunately this does not mean the hyacinth will die and sink but, I am told, will now seed. There are many rumours going around as to what measures are going to be taken to control the weed. Once we have a firm plan from the Department of Water and Sanitation or the Department of the Environment we will let you know.

What we do know at the moment is that Working for Water (an initiative from the Department of the Environment) have 5 teams of 10 people who are manually removing plants and that the local residents are funding an initiative with an excavator that has a 6m rake attached, that is removing plants at the Oewer Club. Their problem is how to dispose of all the plant matter.

All this adds up to very little sailing activity at the club.

Despite the lack of sailing, the committee is trying to keep members in contact by arranging some social events. We have Christmas in July coming up this weekend (15 July). For all those who would like to attend please contact Fred so we can cater appropriately, and remember to bring a present or make a donation. We will be sending all the presents/ donations to a local children's charity.

The following event is the annual "Commodore's Dinner" held the evening before the opening cruise. In light of my opening statements I am not sure if we will in fact have a cruise, but if the wind is out the Poort we may be lucky - there we some weed free days in the past week and Fred managed to get down to making a dent in the outstanding mooring inspections. **Lets hope!!**. The state of the water should not stop us having a great evening, judging by the social we had on 17 June, although not a huge crowd, certainly a memorable evening, with the crew from the NSRI joining us and some impromptu live music. Please book with Fred. The current plan is for a 3 course sit down meal.

On the sailing front, the youth training has been taking place up at Lake Lands. My thanks to everyone involved. I am not going to name anyone for fear of offending members who have assisted and whose name I leave out. In any event a big thank you to all. Coming up in the next few months are the SASNR combined provincials (August) and Keelboat week (September) many of our J22's are still at the Vaal dam so I expect a strong TYC presence at these regattas. The

In the interests of Junior sailing, we have allowed the Vaal Dam clubs to run the annual J22 Youth Interclub regatta for this year. The event will be hosted at DAC from 7 to 9 August. It turned out that the decision to postpone the event was correct. The weed would have prevented any sailing on the planned weekend of 16 to 18 June.

In our efforts to meet the requests of the members that were raised at the AGM, the committee has resolved to get a card machine for the club. This will allow members to pay for any club related expenses (bar included) using either debit or credit cards. Besides the obvious advantages to the members we will

hopefully also decrease our security risk by having less physical cash on the premises. Members should also be able to use the budget facility on their credit cards to pay their annual subscriptions and sailing fees. We will however have to levy the bank commission payable by the club on these transaction on the member.

We will also be demarcating Caravan sites on the top parking area. These will be available to members to rent at a rate of R400 per month.

By the time most of you read this letter, Jenny and I should be on our way to Spain for a 2 week holiday in the sun with a fair bit of cruising thrown in.

Hope to see you all at the club soon. If we can't sail we can at least get together and "solve the problems of the world" over a beverage or 2 around the fire (braai or in the club house)

Regards

Rob Wallendorf