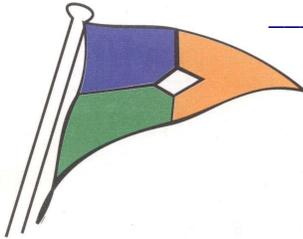


# TRANSVAAL YACHT CLUB



HARTBEESSPOORT DAM

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## Commodores Communiqué

Hi All

Welcome to the off season.

We had our annual prize giving on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and it was quite well attended (wish there were more of you there), especially by our youth. As we all know there has not been much club sailing through out the season as a result of the hyacinth but our youth sailors were rather busy and got the recognition they deserve. Special congratulations to Rohan Chidley and Adrian Rautenbach both have been selected to represent SA overseas.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 was the Club AGM. For those that were unable to make it the highlights were as follows:

1. Court Case – Judgement was handed down on 10 May 2019 and the Applicants case was dismissed with costs. They had until 31 May 2019 to lodge an appeal and surprise surprise they have lodged their appeal. The appeal will be heard by the Judge on 24 July 2019.
2. Hyacinth – We had a visit from Mr. Venter (Working for Water) and he explained that the “Donation” from ABI is to acquire the equipment to harvest the hyacinth from the water and is not only for Hartebeespoort Dam but all dams affected by hyacinth.

Last Friday Fred, Stuart and I visited the site at De Rust and the operation is quite large. There is a big bay there that they have netted off, this bay was rather empty of hyacinth while we were there as the prevailing winds are keeping the hyacinth on the northern shores of the dam. So this operation is really dependant on the winds blowing the hyacinth back to the western bay.

They have lots of equipment on location including a floating harvester. They reckon they have been removing 200 ton a day from the dam but have ordered a larger floating harvester and anticipate increasing the daily removal to 1000 ton per day (if the hyacinth is in there vicinity). Once removed they treat the piles of hyacinth with a bacteria to sterilise the seeds. This process takes approximately a month from removing to getting the compost to bags.

Their mandate is to reduce the hyacinth down to 10% coverage. We have satellite images that indicate the current coverage is fluctuating between 20% and 25% depending on its compaction. Working for Water and DWS are still against poisoning the hyacinth as it will sink and rot at the bottom of the dam and then cause an algae problem.

It is thought that the mechanical removal process will take more than 12 months to get down to 10% and once they reach that target they move their whole operation to other dams that are affected by hyacinth.

3. Webcam – As many will know our webcam has broken down. Rob Wallendorf has pledged to donate a new camera to the club, thank you very much Rob. The Club telephone lines were out of order for around 3 weeks and have since been reconnected. We are going to look into converting to fibre or 4G in the coming weeks.
4. New Committee –

President -	Bernard van Rooyen
Trustee -	Reinhold Antweiler
Trustee -	Johan van Wyk
Trustee -	Eddie Humphreys
Commodore -	Ralph Paterson
Vice Commodore -	Stuart Clague
Rear Commodore -	Anthony Money
Treasurer -	Mary Gurnell
Sailing Secretary -	Ronnie Gurnell
Training -	Rowan Bower
PRO/Secretary -	Wayne Miller
Committee Member -	Terry Paterson

I hope we can serve you our members well over the coming year. I would like to thank Rob and Jenny Wallendorf for their efforts over the years they were on the committee; all your inputs have been invaluable and really appreciated.

The next social events planned at the club are Xmas in July on Saturday night 13 July 2019 and then the Commodores Dinner on Saturday 4 August 2019 and Season Opening on Sunday 5 August 2019. I hope to see all of you at these fun filled functions.

Best Regards

Ralph Paterson  
Commodore