

MAINSHEET

March 2019

Tim & Shirley Addison - Editors

Pretoria Sailing Club's 60th Anniversary Year 1959 - 2019



Rietvlei, before the first clubhouse. Note the reed shelter...



***A prize-giving outside the first clubhouse in the early 1960's
(Photos courtesy of John and Wendy Geekie)***

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|---------------|-----|---|
| 23 March 2019 | Sat | Saturday Series 4 |
| 24 March 2019 | Sun | Sunday Series 4 |
| 30 March 2019 | Sat | Saturday Series 4 |
| 31 March 2019 | Sun | Sunday Series 4 |
| 06 April 2019 | Sat | Finn Tiger Cup and Dolphin Provincials |
| 07 April 2019 | Sun | |
| 13 April 2019 | Sat | Saturday Series 4 |
| 14 April 2019 | Sun | Club Champs |

From the Commodore

After the recent AGM, greetings from one of your 2019 Exco members! It is a privilege to be a part of the Team once again, especially this 60th Anniversary Year. Thank you for the opportunity to do my best for the Club with fellow members of Exco.

We wish Graeme Plint all the best as he studies and applies himself for a higher position in the SA Navy, and thank him for all his efforts and service over the last ± 3 years. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome David Humphrey as the new Vice Commodore.

Richard Parker takes over as Treasurer from Ken Reynolds, who now becomes a valued Trustee. We also welcome Oscar de Weijer who will use his considerable experience in the Development portfolio.

Please remember to collect your Membership and F.O.R. cards from the Committee Room. Note that if you do not have a current Membership Card on display at the Angler Gate entry, you will have to pay full entry price. However, if you are expecting friends or family, please advise the Gate officials, in advance.

Let us all try to sail more often and enjoy our special facilities. See you on the water...

Franci.

Editor's note: Our Commodore, who is a very competent Finn sailor, is frequently late for race starts. He claims that members insist on discussing club matters with him while he is rigging his boat! Umm.....we all know who usually initiates these conversations 😊. Let's help the Commodore - if you see him rigging, chase him on to the water and members can talk to him afterwards...

From the Vice Commodore

It has been a busy few weeks since taking over from Graeme last month, with much happening both on and off the water. On the sailing side, we have completed both Saturday and Sunday Series 3, and there were impressively few days lost to calm weather. Series 4 has just started, and there are also more Club Champ days to go.

In the coming weeks Oscar and I will be updating the Club website, so look there in the future for the series standings and results as they progress.

Which leads on to the next topic – there are not enough boats on the water from the other classes to make a Series, so I cannot publish the results for any classes other than the Finns! It is good to see the occasional Dolphin or Laser on the water, but we do need more of you to come on the SAME day to make it more exciting for you on the water, and for me to score you meaningfully! If only one or two turn up occasionally, sadly it does not work. I am having a meeting of the sailing committee and class captains on the 30th March to see if we can come up with some better ideas to get more boats (other than Finns) on the water regularly. I will let you know how that goes.

Also, we are busy planning for the Prizegiving and Diamond Jubilee supper on the 18th May – book early to avoid disappointment! Doreen Hughes has kindly agreed to chair the organising committee. I daresay there will be more news on that front in the rest of mainsheet.

If any of you have any trophies at home, please give them back as soon as you can. You can hand them to me, any Exco member or Frans.

In the meantime, please make every effort to come and sail if you see wind forecast – it is what makes the club tick, and with an encouraging number of juniors now active through the University, we can hopefully build momentum into many classes in the future.

All the best,

David

From the Sailing Secretary

I accidentally forgot to thank three people who were involved in the Charity Regatta. Umut Duyar-Kienast, Rob Scott and Wendy Coetzee – please accept my apologies. We are really grateful for all the voluntary help that we receive on a weekly basis.

Graeme

From the Quartermaster

Greetings to all the Members from the busy galley at PSC!

We have had the usual run on toasted “sarmies” and with the extremely hot weather our ice creams are in great demand!

The first tree planting ceremony went off very well with our guests of honour and friends enjoying time at the bar afterwards where we served a selection of snacks to mark this special occasion. This is all part of our 60th anniversary celebrations. Speaking of which, we are all hard at work planning our big event, the annual awards evening and 60th celebration dinner on 18th May. More about that in the next Mainsheet.

Our next event will be the Finn Tiger Cup and Dolphin Provincials in April, when we will provide lunches on Saturday and Sunday.

Looking forward to seeing you all and providing the nourishment to keep you on the water, energised and ready to win races!

Barbara

From the Development Officer

After a 28 year of absence from yacht racing it is a real privilege to be back on the water and to have been welcomed back into PSC with open arms.

Having been a member of PSC as a student until completing my studies in 1990, life has taken me on a journey that excluded sailing but brought me back older and somewhat wiser with a family of my own.

I think I may have brought the role of Development Officer upon myself through my enthusiasm about the amazing facility we have at Rietvlei, my passion for the sport and wanting to give something back. I have many fond memories of junior and youth sailing in SA starting as a member of Benoni Sailing Club and my time at PSC while studying in Pretoria.

Over the past 20 to 30 years there has been a decline in club membership and regular attendance on weekends, along with a decline in turnouts at provincial and national events across all classes. This is not the same sport I left behind years ago, and herein lies the development challenge! Development can be described as the process of creating new opportunities and scenarios in a changing situation.

Our ultimate challenge however is to turn the tide from decline into growth. This is not a one-man journey and it certainly will not happen in a season - it will require a group effort over several years and I look forward to working alongside you as we trim our sails, batten down the hatches and change course for some new uncharted territory.

I’m looking forward to sharing my thoughts and ideas as we start building a strategy, not only to develop our club and the its members, but to make an impact on sailing in general.

Oscar

From the Administrator

THE WAY WE WERE...

Rob Scott and I got chatting at the bar the other day. I offered to buy him a beer if he told me something about his background as a PSC member and office-bearer. The deal was done!

Dr Rob Scott joined PSC in 1982 and became a member of the House and Grounds Committee the following year. This was followed by a year each as Rear Commodore, Vice-Commodore and Commodore, the latter position being held between 1987 and 1988. Some years ago, Rob was made an Honorary Life Member and Trustee of the Club. He has been a PSC member in good standing for over 38 years, initially in the Enterprise Class and for the last 15 years as member of the most active class at PSC, the Finn Class. Rob is a SAS-qualified sail training coach and taught one of the Level 1 Youth Groups for the three years that I was the club's Development Officer. He has also served as Chairman of the former Enterprise Association of South Africa and chaired the organising committees of two Enterprise World Sailing Championships, held in Durban and Saldanha Bay. Rob has sailed in five Enterprise World Championships, usually maintaining a respectable position around the middle of the fleet.

Rob and his wife Lindsay, (who was the PSC Administrator for a number of years) have recently relocated to Hermanus in the Western Cape. Before leaving, they each planted a tree at Rob's Wharf (which Rob had been responsible for building, years ago). We wish them both well in their new home and hope that they will visit PSC when next in the area to greet their old friends and see how their young trees are faring!

Wendy Coetzee
Administrator
012 660 2016
082 7404033

From the Dolphin Class Captain

Do not miss out on the action!

Register on-line for the 2019 Dolphin Nationals at Aeolians (see below).

Should you require assistance with transporting your boat or need crew, please contact me.

The Dolphin Class Provincials will be held at PSC on the 6th and 7th of April, together with the Finn Tiger Cup.

Marius
082 569 1125



From the Laser Class Captain

The Laser Nationals 2019 will be sailed offshore Durban from 27th to 30th April 2019.
See Notice of Regatta (sent by the Laser Association) for further details.

Simon Kemsley
(083) 225-8851

Note to all PSC Laser sailors from the Finn Class:

Please come and join us for Club racing on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Lasers and Finns are well matched, and there are sailors of every competence level in the Finn fleet. You will discover, as we have, just how much fun it is!

From the Finn Class Captain

(Edited from Class newsletters)



Notices:

1. The Finn Tiger Cup will be held at PSC on the 6th and 7th of April 2019.
2. Arend van Wamelen is co-ordinating arrangements for Northern Region Finn sailors who will be travelling to the Western Cape for the Provincials and the Nationals. There are already eight PSC sailors on his list. Please make sure that you contact him (via WhatsApp) if you intend to participate.
3. Ben Vorster is reluctantly retiring from sailing. He has been in the "Legend" category for many years, and we will miss him on the water. His Morrison Finn is for sale. If you are interested, you can contact him on 079 707 4358.

Sailing report – 2nd and 3rd of March:

The weekend was far from uneventful. There was plenty of wind, but it was also very hot, and the result was a hiking-strength breeze, spiced up with a world record number of whirlwinds and major wind-shifts. There were capsize, near-capsizes, people falling out of their boats, illegal mark roundings and various verbal altercations. All of this contributed to a more-than-usually hilarious party afterwards in the shady coolness of the lawn near the water's edge on a beautiful late-summer evening.

Eleven Finns were counted on the water on Saturday, with six on Sunday. The "Parker Classics" (Richard and Grant) had a great weekend, with both of them using the shifts well and leading the way for extended periods. Leon is also a regular sight near the front, and once he gets moving nobody is able to shake him off. The same applies to Arend, especially when the conditions are a bit rough. It is becoming more and more difficult for anyone to finish in the top three.

Ian is our latest hero, not for the first time. This weekend we sailed Course 1 for a change; it was reminiscent of the “old days” when we sailed as many as three laps of Course 1, and a race was expected to last for at least an hour and a half. As the running fleet approached buoy 5 (which is so far from the clubhouse that it is hardly visible), some of us noticed that Dennis’s boat was going much faster than usual; then it dawned on us that there was nobody on board! Panic ensued for a few moments (which seemed like ages), until the familiar flappy cap was spotted in the water, many boat-lengths behind the still-speeding Finn 503. Fortunately, the cap was still attached to its owner, who was apparently in pretty good shape judging by some of the language. It was Ian Brown who was first on the scene, “heaving to” in the choppy conditions and hauling the offender on board (which was no mean feat, by the way). He was aided by many expert (!) suggestions from others in the vicinity. **Great seamanship Ian, and it is also great to know that when you are sailing a Finn there are always people looking out for you.** All the boats completed that race, but the strongman from Yorkshire (Dennis) was not able to talk his way into a legal finishing position; among other things, he claimed that the toe-straps on 503 were different to those on his original “Blue Boat”, and therefore it was all Rob Scott’s fault...



The Hero



The victim

“Heaving to” refers to the art of stopping a sailing craft using just the sails and rudder. Most Finn sailors have been sailing long enough to be familiar with the term!



Advertisements

DOLPHIN NO. 35 FOR SALE

Price : R15,000

Please contact Marius Fourie on 082 569 1125 should you be interested.

DOLPHIN NO. 70 “Wild Thing” - FOR SALE

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