



Pretoria Sailing Club  
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# MAINSHEET

June 2019

*Tim & Shirley Addison - Editors*

## Pretoria Sailing Club's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year 1959 - 2019

*(Photos of the Anniversary Gala evening, courtesy of Enid Klaas)*







## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Informal sailing and mini races</b>	<b>Saturday afternoons (2pm)</b>
<b>PSC Youth Regatta</b>	<b>17-18 August 2019</b>
<b>Finn Winter Challenge</b>	<b>24-25 August 2019</b>
<b>505 Highveld Championships</b>	<b>24-25 August 2019</b>
<b>PSC Opening Cruise</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>

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## From the Commodore

At this time of year, one would expect a quiet time at the Club. Not so!

With Frans and Margaret away on annual leave and Pieter also away for 4 days, the Club needed a presence for Adult Sail Training and other work.

So, 13 prospective sailors turned up for Mark's AST Course on 8/9 June, ably assisted by Oscar, David, Richard and me. It was a highly successful weekend, which spilled over to a Monday braai with some of the participants who had three days of sailing! Direct mentoring on the water was well received and, by last weekend, two boats had changed hands, going to new members!

The Club has installed an alarm monitoring system with Bull Security. This is to safeguard our property and to protect our resident staff members.

In addition, a completely new Clearvu security fence has been erected adjacent to the dam wall side of the Club property. Bull have been granted access via gate 4 at any time. Should the alarm trigger, either Barbara or I will be notified to follow the required process. All for additional safety.

Blesbok is currently out for annual maintenance and other work. All power boats are receiving attention for the new season.

The dam water is clear, and the level is high, with wind on the way. Get there to enjoy the best sailing with a wetsuit on!

See you there!

Franci

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# From the Vice Commodore

Dear All,

**Class captains please respond to note 2 below, and copy Graeme Lilley.**

## Sailing

I am busy compiling the blue book and I will send it out in soft copy as soon as I can, but I need two things:

1. B&R volunteer replies. So far 18 replies via Wendy – for which many thanks. Others who have not replied, please send to Wendy or Graeme Lilley or me, as soon as possible – our email addresses are in contained in the mail Wendy sent out.
2. Replies from Class Captains around their preferred dates for regattas. Please could class captains let me know as soon as possible.

## Website

There have been changes to the website, particularly reflecting our initiative to really strengthen membership through training new members. If you have friends thinking of joining, let them know. It can be on a trial/temporary basis paid monthly, so that they can experience sailing first before having to commit to full membership.

## Regalia

There are 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary burgees, caps, coffee mugs and some wine glasses (engraved for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary) all for sale if you wish to purchase from the canteen. Prices in the display cabinet.

David

([david.humphrey1@me.com](mailto:david.humphrey1@me.com))

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# From the Administrator

## THE WAY WE WERE

TONY AIMER'S MEMORIES OF TIMES GONE BY, RECALLED IN PSC'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

I got chatting to Tony Aimer at the Charity Regatta last January, (which seems quite a long time ago now!) Tony first learnt to sail on an FD when he was studying structural engineering at UCT back in 1967. Tony joined PSC in 1995 and first sailed FD SA239 with Giel Pieterse. They were crew and skipper for approximately fifteen years. Willem Stevens, a PSC member based in Lydenburg, was an important sailing influence in Tony's life. Willem repaired many members' FDs and thought nothing of towing them back to Lydenburg, a three and a half hour's drive away, to effect the repairs. Another of Tony's mentors was Nigel Trevarthan.

Tony's son, Brian, sailed an Oppie and later a Dabbie at PSC, which he infinitely preferred to participating in rugby and cricket at school! Brian graduated from RAU as a mechanical engineer, after which he and Tony sailed together in various locations in a GP 14, travelling as far afield as George Lakes. Brian won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study for his master's at Cranfield in the United Kingdom and found himself on a course with 40 other students. After graduating, Brian was selected for a job in the Aerodynamics Department at Rolls Royce. Before long, his boss discovered that Brian was a sailor, and invited the new appointee to skipper his Laser 2, after which they proceeded to win many of the races. If ever Brian was in a tight spot at work, his boss was sure to support him, so you can say that sailing skills can have their uses, even in the everyday world of work!

Tony continues to enjoy sailing at PSC, a sport which he infinitely prefers to gym. In fact, he regards it as the healthiest sport on this planet.

If you have memories of the club in times gone by which you would like to share with me and the members, please come and chat to me about them. I'd love to hear from you in this special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**Wendy**

**012 660 2016**

**082 740 4033**

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The purpose of this brief article is to inform our members of the uses to which their annual membership fees are put, keeping in mind the special value that our sponsors also contribute.

The Friends of Rietvlei (FOR) as an organisation was set up in 1995, under the Chairmanship of Roger Brown, in order to be of assistance to the City Council and in the interests of nature conservation. Since the outset it has been driven by the enthusiasm of its members. It started off small, as most things do, and today it is one of the largest "friends groups" in the country with over 450 members. The reserve itself was established in 1937 in an Administrator's notice, the area had previously been acquired by the City Council of Pretoria in 1929 in order to ensure a safe water supply for the growing city.

The Rietvlei Dam, built during the Great Depression, was completed in 1934 and constructed mainly using manual labour. There was some small game at that time, and Blesbok (which we use as our logo) were introduced from General Jan Smuts' nearby farm in 1938. Since then, other species have been reintroduced including the Buffalo and Rhinos. Since the game has thrived and greatly increased in numbers over the years it has become necessary to supplement their feeding during the dry winter months, this is where a large portion of our funds are being spent.

The FOR have at various times constructed bird hides and eco toilets at strategic positions within the reserve area, to make a visit more interesting and educational for visitors. These facilities cost a great deal, with the last hide built, Finfoot Hide, coming in at over R200,000. There is also, after construction, the ongoing repair and maintenance required to keep them in good order. Recently Island View, Panorama, Coots Corner and Finfoot hides have been upgraded to allow handicapped people easier access.

From the outset the FOR has been committed to and involved in the removal of invader plants and other alien vegetation. Recently a great deal of attention has been focused on the very invasive POM POM weeds. In order to successfully treat an area, herbicides need to be used. The current herbicide (with activator) is costing about a thousand Rand per hectare; this in addition to the many willing hands who help with the eradication.

In the last few years we became involved, on the periphery, with the Cheetah program and supplied a tracking collar, a high cost item.

In the past we purchased and donated several bakkie-mounted firefighting units and still assist with emergency repairs. We continue to support the reserve management with emergency funding for the repair and maintenance of items such as high voltage fence energisers and odds and ends they need from time to time.

Unfortunately, we are unable to insure our tools and equipment and over the past few years both the FOR and the City Council have suffered from burglaries. It seems whatever measures we take are inadequate, last year we suffered a loss of about R40,000 and have had two break in's this year.

The FOR do not have any operational expenses in the sense of remuneration to any committee member, or for that matter, to any member. We have a philosophy of every Rand of income goes directly to adding value on the Reserve. We therefore lean very heavily on the contributions of members, either by member fees, additional sponsoring of items, labour and/or financial contributions from sponsors. We keep a record of all projects and our annual financial statements can be seen by any member or sponsor as proof of our philosophy.

In spite of these high operational expenses we have still been able limit our membership fees and will continue to manage our finances in a responsible and prudent manner. We are also a proud member of WESSA and the only community based organisation recognised by the City of Tshwane to work on the Rietvlei Nature Reserve and receive and spend money from donors, sponsors and members.

**James Drowley (FOR Chairman)**

### FRIENDS OF RIETVLEI ACTIVITIES LIST

1. Take care of the structures planned and built by the FoR. This includes the repair and maintenance necessary to keep the facilities in good order.
2. Organise work sessions to assist with the alien invasive plant management, focusing on hides and picnic-areas, and other maintenance activities as outlined above or as specially requested by reserve management.
3. Hold fund-raising events to assist CoT financially with the upkeep of the reserve and the supplementary feeding of some of the game. It must be emphasised that membership fees and all monies from events and sponsorships are used exclusively for the support and improvement of the reserve.
4. Conduct regular patrols to different parts of the reserve and report on any unusual activities or situations that are identified and in need of attention.
5. Vigorously promote and inform members of the public to enhance the conservation function and recreation value of the reserve.

**Chairman Friends of Rietvlei**

**Functional head Rietvlei Nature Reserve**

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# From the Development Officer

We closed out last season with great fanfare, and now we have started seeing some mid-winter progress on the club and sailing development front, with 12 people attending the first of our Adult Sail Training (AST L1) programs for 2019 - expertly lead by Mark Biagio on the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June.



Our aim is to attract new members to this program, but we also understand that there is a need for training courses and coaching to reignite and develop existing members by advancing their sailing capabilities.

For some reason, not one of the candidates who attended the June AST program was an existing member, or had much, if any, sailing experience.



We overcame some of the typical challenges faced as a Club in hosting and presenting these events by ensuring we had enough suitable yachts available, and enough support for Mark, with assistant coaches keeping an eye on the twelve new candidates, on and off the water.

We made use of the 3 club Gypsies, and the Dolphin class made 4 boats available (many thanks to Marius and Grant).





As always, Franci and Barbara made themselves available all weekend to ensure that we had enough support and rescue craft, as well as afternoon lunches.

The feedback received from the attendees was very positive and encouraging. They all really enjoyed the experience of learning how to sail and appreciated the balance between classroom and practical sailing. Most of them have indicated that they would like to continue sailing, and plan to join the Club with the aim of learning more about the sport.

The next AST L1 sail training event with Mark Biaggio has been confirmed for Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Spring Training at its best!

Our aim is to host one formal event per month throughout the season alternating between adult sail training, junior training and more advanced programs looking at racing tactics and rules.

To support these activities and provide new and existing members with more opportunities to learn from others we will also start hosting less formal sail training events and “social events”. Some of the new members have requested more exposure to sailing, and ideally would like to spend time on boats alongside more experienced sailors. Some of our legends and youth will be hearing from us as we need to enlist their support in this venture. If you are interested in playing a meaningful role, please contact me directly to find out how you can help.

The details of future events and dates will be posted in the upcoming sailing calendar for the 2019 – 2020 season and the ad-hoc events will be shared with you as they evolve.

The first of our monthly “social events” will take place on Thursday evening, 27<sup>th</sup> June, at PSC from 18h00 onwards – there will be a log fire, some good company and great discussions. These evenings are aimed at providing opportunities for social interaction between existing and new members. Each evening will have a different theme or topic aimed at sharing knowledge, inspiring others and getting to know each other.

**Oscar de Weijer**

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## From the Dolphin Class Captain

Congratulations to Christiaan Holm who was awarded SAS Northern Region colours at the Northern Region awards evening at VLC on 8 June 2019. This was a splendid evening with many sailors awarded for their sailing achievements. Christiaan was the 2019 National winning skipper, competing against 20 Dolphins at the Vaal Dam. He was also the winner of the 2019 Provincial championships at PSC with Adrian Lotriet as crew. This young man surely did show the other Dolphin sailors how a Dolphin should be sailed.

There are currently a few Dolphins for sale with a price range from R12 500 – R17 500. Contact me should you be interested.

Marius Fourie  
082 5691125  
[marius@lonerock.co.za](mailto:marius@lonerock.co.za)



# From the Finn Class Captain

(Edited from Class newsletters)



*Finn sailing in the 1950's...*



*and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century...*

Dear Finn sailors and friends,

So far, the winter “off-season” has been unusually quiet (regarding the weather, that is). In recent years, we have come to expect quite cold and windy conditions in June, but this year the days have been beautifully warm, and there has been very little in the way of decent sailing.

On Saturday the 15th there were at least eleven Finn sailors waiting patiently on the slipway, with nine boats actually rigged and ready to launch. Sadly, the Winter Series did not get under way as planned, although six of the Finns did venture out in the fluky south-westerly (?) breeze. In the end they had a good afternoon of practice, which is always time well spent. There was a newcomer among them; Steven Rootman (normally helming a GP14) out there in “Finnatic”, and we expect to see him with us regularly from now on.

Hopefully the weather will be more suitable for sailing in the weeks to come. The plan is to have a “mini-bridge” operating on the rescue boat (Impala), and we will need at least one volunteer each Saturday. I will be away for a couple of weeks, but Franci has kindly agreed to take charge of the “Bridge Officer’s Kit”, which will be kept in the committee room. It consists of an orange folder (with “Finn Class” on the outside) containing a clipboard, scoring sheets, a pen and a whistle (in other words, all the basic requirements for good Finn racing!). The idea is that the bridge officer should record the finishing positions on one of the sheets provided, and then send a photo of the sheet to David Humphrey so that he can process the scores. The actual scoring sheets should be kept on the clipboard.

[Attached to the email that brought you this Mainsheet, we have included a very entertaining article by Leon Ferreira, describing his recent experiences at the Finn Masters World Championships in Denmark. He graphically captures the essence of the Masters event, while at the same time illustrating his own amazingly positive attitude in all matters related to Finn sailing. This is recommended reading!](#)

Tim Addison  
[tpga@iafrica.com](mailto:tpga@iafrica.com)

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## Advertisements

### **DOLPHIN NO. 35 FOR SALE**

Price : R13,000

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

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### **DOLPHIN NO. 70 “Wild Thing” - FOR SALE**

Price : R12,000  
(includes launching dolly)

Please contact Geoff Larkins on 072 269 0732 should you be interested.

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