



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DATE: Monday, 4 October 2010

The 2010-11 racing season has started with more of a whimper than a bang after only two races were successfully completed on our first day of racing for the season. The first race saw a mixed fleet of ten boats take the start with Arian Fawcett and Jess Dobie taking out Div 1 on their Viper ahead of Matt Homan and Lou Zylstra. New member to the club, David Taylor made an impressive return to the Lazy E class after not having sailed for almost 27 years by convincingly beating the entire Div 1 fleet to the finish line. Wet weather across the race area turned the second race, with starters reduced to six, into a wet drifter with Peter Bradbury getting the better shifts in the very light conditions.

The Moreton Bay Marine Supplies Club Championship kicks off this coming weekend followed by the Humpybash regatta on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

Race control for the Club Championship race this weekend will need to be kept tight as we will be sharing the use of Bramble Bay with the Queensland Water Ski Association's World Championship Trial Day. They have been given the same level of Authority as us to use the water by Marine Safety Queensland but they have also secured the support of the Water Police and the Coast Guard. Their course for the weekend runs parallel to the new Ted Smout Bridge but is wide enough to cover most of the bay. Maritime Safety Queensland have now also issued a Notice to Mariners declaring the water ski race course an exclusion zone. Any race course we set on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September will need to be set well to the east of our normal location so that we do not interfere with their designated areas.

Our Aquatic Event Authority for September through November has been granted and I have previously distributed it on email to the committee. The Authority contains two pages of conditions that every sailing member of the club needs to be aware of. The Authority provides us with no rights to the water, but instead imposes my acceptance of the conditions on behalf of the club. This in effect makes me, as the applicant, ultimately responsible for the safety of every person that participates in the event. I will post a copy of the Authority on the notice board downstairs in the club house and ask that at every race briefing the competitors are made aware of the conditions. Because of these conditions safety measures during racing will need to be strictly enforced, including sign-on and sign-off, wearing PFDs, and the Race Officer's decision to cancel racing if sea conditions are not deemed safe. We will need to contact Marine Safety Queensland as, while we have the Authority in writing; it has not been posted to their website list of Authorities and therefore may not be deemed to be public knowledge.

The committee will also need to enter in further negotiations with the Queensland Water Ski Association for next year's calendar. The event for this month is their Trial day for the World Championships that they have organised for the same locations next year. The World Championships however will involve two courses, with the second course coming past the clubhouse and out past Woody Point, and two weeks of racing. This will coincide with our usual dates for next years Humpybash as well as one other week of club racing. It is highly likely that we will not be able to run our races while the Water Ski Association is using their second course and a decision will need to be made if we are to abandon racing on these dates or move our courses elsewhere. As stated previously, our Water Event Authority does not provide us (or the Water Ski Association) with any rights to the water, it only imposes conditions for our use of it for a public event. The discussions therefore should be open by both parties.

I have prepared the Notice-Of-Race and Sailing Instructions for the Humpybash and had them reviewed by Alan Carlisle. Drafts were to be available tonight for review by the committee but my commitments outside this club have meant that I have not had the time to finish them. The documents need to be finalised quickly so that they can be distributed to the members and the public. We cannot allow time to drag on this. Issuing notices days out from the event will only ensure that no one attends. Bias Boating Warehouse have confirmed their sponsorship of the event and we will need to discuss with Michael Robinson how many vouchers and what values we will be requiring for the event. I will be asking the club's Principal Race Officer to complete our regatta management plan with volunteers for the event. I expect every committee member to take some role in the day.

So far all sponsors for the season have confirmed their commitment with the exception of Professionals. We will try to contact them again this week. If there is still no response we will need to look elsewhere for our Summer Series sponsor.

The Open Day over the past weekend was a small success. While there were members of the public in boats for most of the five hour open day, we only took a couple of new memberships. A number of people I have spoken with since the event have confirmed a suspicion that the weather was the greatest determining factor in turnout for the day. The most asked question was of our Learn To Sail offerings and our lack of fixed dates or a programme probably lead to a lack of confidence in our ability to deliver the programme. If we are to deliver the promised Learn-To-Sail classes, as I strongly suggest we do, we need to do so as a club effort and not just the commitment of a few key members.

Support from the rest of the club, including members of this committee, was at a significant low across the weekend. It was great to have club members taking advantage of the new boats made available by Brisbane Catamaran Centre and Performance Sailcraft Australia, but the aim of the event was to bolster membership numbers and not just so that the existing membership could sail a shiny new boat that they had no interest in buying! My deepest thanks to Russ McDonald, who spent four and a half hours in the Club's Corsair taking potential members for a sail, and also to Alan Crawford for manning the BBQ all day. Don Dull and Ross Guinea also took several potential members out on the new Nacra 430.

With the Humpybash only a fortnight away and the negotiations with the Water Ski Association for this coming weekend it will continue to be a busy period for the committee and the membership.

Matthew Johnson  
President – Humpybong Yacht Club