

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DATE: Tuesday, 5 April 2011

April is upon us and Easter is now only three weeks away. This month will be busy as we host the A-Class Qld titles and continue with our rapidly growing learn-to-sail programme.

The last weekend in March saw the last round of the Laser Metro series raced at HYC in some very challenging conditions. The conditions were such that Peter Bradbury, Brett Buckley and I were able to fly a hull in the 6m RIB. The Laser sailors enjoyed a day packed with capsizes and carnage with a couple of races in between for good measure. I have received a number of comments from the competitors on the day that the running of the day was outstanding.

Preparations for the A-Class titles are progressing well. I have put together a roster for various volunteer roles. We do still need more volunteers for on the water roles and I will search out able bodies to fill these positions this week. I have done a quick review of the starting flags and we will need to replace some but many should be suitable. Alan Carlisle, Andrew Chaney and I should aim to finalise the Sailing Instructions over the next two weeks. We discuss the final organisation later tonight.

I have contacted the organisers from Sandgate's Bluewater Festival and Redcliffe's Festival of Sails regarding mutual promotion opportunities. I have received responses from both groups and we will be providing some words for their event MC's to use during the festivals in return for advertising their events with brochures around the clubhouse.

Further correspondence from the 420 association indicates that they wish to hold their national titles at our club from 27th December 2011 until 2nd January 2012. They realise that there is not likely to be many HYC members available to run the regatta for them at that time and have asked HYC to consider a "dry-hire" of the facilities. This brings up a number of issues, both in terms of insurance and management. We would need to consider arrangements such as training personnel nominated by the 420's in the launching and running of our rescue and start boats. We should also investigate if any existing club members would be available to supervise the event while most of us are away at other regattas around the country. We can further discuss this matter tonight.

Alan Crawford and I have completed the YQ Census and it has gone back to YQ for their records.

As a result of Alan and my discussions with Councillor Rae Frawley regarding the hardships suffered by the club with closures due to the Brisbane Floods, the councillor has offered a \$500 donation from her Community Support Fund. We have returned the required paperwork for the funding and that Councillor Frawley for her support of the club.

Media Storm Crawford has come and gone and stirred up much community comment in the process. While it is obvious that HYC are not the only organisation effected by the unworkable system that is Unity Water's billing process we are not going to see any speedy resolution to the issues raised by the publicity. Unity Water are "reviewing" the method of charging for sewerage but this review is expected to take some time and continue to cost our club substantially in the intervening time. The increased costs of utilities will need to be factored into future considerations for fees for the next season.

With the high number of wet weather days we have experienced recently it is becoming more obvious that the draining to the rigging area is in need of some work. Alan Crawford and I recently investigated the existing drainage pits to the rigging area and found that the ag-drains and pits were full of fine sand. We attempted to clear the lines with buckets and hoses but were unable to greatly improve the flow. I have submitted a request to MBRC for them to clean out the drainage lines and they have put the request into their system for action.

There has been some movement in the storage yard recently with new boats now being stored and other being removed. The issue of pro-rata fees has been raised with regard to refunding those removing their boats before the end of the financial year and those storing their boats with only a few months remaining in the year. I will ask the committee to confirm the club's position pro-rata fees to allow the Treasurer to make decisions for the future.

Matthew Johnson
President – Humpybong Yacht Club