

Claremont Yacht Club (Inc)

Half Yearly General Meeting 21 March 2019

Commodore's Report

I am pleased to present to Members my first report as Commodore. This report covers activities during the six months since my election as Commodore of CYC in September 2018, and also lays out plans for future activities.

Firstly, I must thank my Flag Officers and General Committee members who have been diligent in the exercise of their roles. Particularly, I thank Vice Commodore, Darren Chatfield, Rear Commodore Sail, Richie Boykett, and Honorary Treasurer, Dave Andrews, who each stepped into significant roles for the Club at the AGM, alongside Rear Commodores Paul Hodgson and Walter Reeves. I thank Flag Officers for their contributions to this report.

As I said at the AGM, your General Committee is here to serve the Club and Club members. *"Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless"*. In addition to our priceless volunteers on General Committee, many priceless volunteers contribute to the sail, power and dinghy sub-committees which get our competing boats out on the water. I thank all of our volunteers, whether they are on a committee or among the many members who volunteer their time and services to maintain the Club's facilities, grounds and history.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Following from last year's AGM, the General Committee engaged with Management Consultant and Club member, Jim Crockett, who volunteered to assist the Club to work on the development of a forward plan. On 7th February, we participated in a workshop, facilitated by Jim, which determined major considerations, such as on-land facilities, membership growth and on-water participation, which the Club needs to address in an initial two year plan. Under each of these major considerations, the General Committee will determine the short term actions that are required and the timeframe within which we should progress each matter.

Jim Crockett has agreed to facilitate a second workshop with General Committee members to complete the forward plan by developing an agreed understanding of the Vision for the Club. Members will be invited to review the forward plan and Vision for the Club drafted by the General Committee. Input from members will be encouraged once the draft plan is agreed by general Committee and sent out to all members. Your General Committee will take the broad input and agree the final plan to be tabled at the AGM in September 2019, with a view to formally adopting this as the objectives for Claremont Yacht Club to pursue during the next two years.

WHO ARE WE AS A CLUB?

During the past 5 years (Jan 2014 to Jan 2019) there has been little change in the membership of our Club. The number of voting members, predominantly the owners of boats in our marina, is essentially unchanged (301 in Jan '14 compared with 312 in Jan '19) in spite of our marina growing from about 170 pens up to about 230 pens during the same period (that is an increase in our marina capacity of about 1/3). Currently our marina vacancy stands at about forty pens across all pen sizes (not including the pens on the shore side of D jetty). On the positive side, we have filled about 65% of the large pens created by the H jetty expansion.

So, does this mean that we have only gained 11 voting members during the past 5 years? Well, NO! Since January 2014 we have actually lost more than 200 voting members!! The story is exactly the same for non-voting members - going from 309 to 312 during the past 5 years in spite of the Redeemable House Support levy (\$75 every 6 months) not being charged to Social members since January 2015. Of real concern is that since January 2014 about 200 members, across all categories of membership, have joined our Club and then resigned before January 2019; that is, they were members for fewer than 5 years.

Our current membership is made up, roughly speaking, of 300 voting members and 300 non-voting members, with an additional 170 members who have joined CYC through affiliated clubs (CCGS OBA, Just Friends, NWGFS & Lions). Among both our current voting and non-voting members, about half in each group have joined the Club during the past 5 years. All of the 170 current members through affiliated Clubs have signed up with CYC during

the past 5 years. And in case you are wondering, Juniors membership has remained minimal but with an encouraging increase from 8 to 29 during the same 5 year period.

Who should we recruit into our Club? More than half of our members live within 5 km of the Club. Among the Senior Members who have joined during the past 5 years, about 40% live in those same suburbs. The age distribution of our Senior Members is similar to the age distribution of boat owners. Department of Transport figures show that about 70% of boat owners in our area are over 50 years of age. This suggests that we should target a demographic that is similar to the group who have joined the Club during the past 5 years to increase the occupancy of boat pens in our marina.

So, the message is quite clear for both the General Committee and Club members generally. We need to be more successful in recruiting new members into both our Senior Membership and Social Membership ranks. However, we also need to be more successful in engaging members and others. We need to be proud of being members of Claremont Yacht Club and confident to invite other members, friends, family and acquaintances to join us in our Clubhouse for a function, for a meal or for a drink. Personal recommendations from members are the strongest form of advertising.

We have started the process of welcoming new members into the Club by running “New Members’ Sundowners” twice a year. I introduced these events to provide an environment in which new members can meet General Committee members and long standing members. These sundowners also allow new members to mingle with other members across the spectrum of membership in the Club and be informed about the full range of opportunities for participation at the Club.

JETTY REDEVELOPMENT

A plan for the refurbishment and addition of finger jetties of A Jetty pens, has been prepared and is available for members to review. The Jetty Works sub-committee has recommended that we replace the old wooden piles with steel piles, similar to the construction used for the H Jetty development. We are in the process of obtaining prices for the supply of steel components and for installation of the piles and finger jetties and will manage the costs within the budget approved at last year’s AGM. This refurbishment will be done in stages starting from the main jetty, as pen allocations and boat movements allow, and will result in the loss of four pens.

The Pens and Moorings Committee report that we have had regular movement of boats into our marina during 2018, however a number of boats have also been sold and left the marina. Unfortunately, the net result has been an increase in our vacancy rate during the past 12 months. Nonetheless, we have received many enquiries during this summer and the marina is filling up again with six new boats (with associated new Senior Members) being allocated pens during February.

CONSTITUTION REVISION

Members will see that there are four motions proposed to this HYGM to amend our Club’s constitution. Also presented to this meeting is a motion to amend the Rules by revising the fees in Appendix A. These constitutional amendments have come out of a process which has been underway since the AGM in 2017. The proposed changes presented to this HYGM will start the process to modernise our Club’s Constitution. I thank Alex Salvaris, Steve Scott, Richard Regan and Kingsley Porter for their contributions to this process to date.

A review of Membership categories is currently being undertaken through General Committee. With the ongoing assistance of the Constitution Review Committee, I intend to propose the changes to the Constitution and Rules, which follow from that review, to the AGM in September this year.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Club remains in a robust financial position. The Honorary Treasurer, Dave Andrews, has provided a detailed analysis of our current financial position and the trading for the first half year in his report – I encourage members to read Dave’s report. However, a couple of highlights in our financial position are: We continue to pay down our loan, which has now been reduced to a round \$1M, and it will be further reduced by the end of the current financial year; Also, our food and beverage operations have made a small surplus which has enabled us to absorb cost increases and maintain our current food and beverage price structure for members. Significantly, the General Committee has recommended that membership subscriptions be decreased, although Redeemable

House Support Credits will be increased – the latter increase will not impact on the out-of-pocket costs to the majority of members. Our General Manager, Richard Teuchert, and all of our staff are to be commended on their efforts to progress all aspects of the Club's performance during the first half of the current financial year.

HOSPITALITY

The Honorary Treasurer's report makes three points about our food and beverage operations which I think are worth reiterating: 1 – the financial performance of our bar and restaurant has improved with greater income and better cost control. 2 – we have improved meal offerings with greater consistency. 3 - on the back of our improved performance, bar prices will remain unchanged this financial year.

I thank all of our staff, permanent and casual, for their efforts in raising the standards and performance of the Club's F&B service. As most of you will be aware, Damon Chandler, our former F&B Manager, resigned at the beginning of this year. The F&B Manager role has been ably filled by Sarah Nottle. Sarah has quite a different background from our previous F&B Managers so we look forward to her input which will further progress the Club's hospitality service.

On the subject of changes to our offering, we have recently introduced Friday lunches and moved the Friday dining service to the Deepdene room so that the Club Menu is available from Friday Lunch to Sunday dinner in the Deepdene. We have also introduced a two course set menu on Wednesday night, alternating every other week with the evergreen buffet. We will monitor these changes to assess acceptance (or otherwise) by Members. Nonetheless, members are asked to make a booking prior to coming to the Club for meals as this will assist us with continuing to improve our service.

Keep your eye on Midstream to find out the menu and specials each week and to see what events we have planned for your entertainment and enjoyment. I look forward to seeing you at coming events.

POWER BOAT SECTION

The Power section again had a successful time trial season over winter. We had a number of new members who competed, as well as some members who have been around for a while. We also had new members joining in with our stalwart members who volunteer to man checkpoints for our time trial events. The season was won by Utopia, skippered by Justin Congdon and navigated by David Bovell. Trophies for the 2018 season were presented, and much fun was had by all, at the Cocktail Party held on 17th November.

The annual "Rotto catch-up" was held at the Rottneest pub on the 28th of December with around 35 members attending, it was a great afternoon. The Power Committee welcomes all new members and hopes to see you all become involved in the club in some capacity. The Power Committee also encourage our longer standing members to get involved in Club activities. Your participation will make our club stronger as we move forward into a prosperous future.

KEELBOAT SECTION

The Sailing Section continues to maintain a relatively small but very active fleet of yachts, skippers and, most importantly, crew. This group is actively supported by the start crew led up by Wilma Poland and Robert Jefferies.

We have had some excellent sailing with many days of good winds pushing the fleet around the course and making for some competitive sailing. Our fleet is competitive with a good mix of boats allowing a diverse style of boat to get involved. Our skippers and crew are also very supportive to ensure that skippers who are new to racing are encouraged to return and build on the fleet.

The Wednesday twilights continue to be popular with a mixed fleet each week of about six boats. The twilight series is a great way for skippers and crews, new to fleet racing, to practise sailing and tacking in close to other boats. The twilight events are very much a social race and there is not even a mutton chop at stake, though the occasional bottle of wine is on offer.

If members or friends are keen to try sailing or crewing, there are opportunities to come down and join in with experienced skippers. Contact through the office to the Rear Commodore Sail, or other members of the sailing committee, is the best method to get on board.

DINGHY SECTION

The 2018-19 season got off to a poor start with the opening day race being cancelled due to strong wind. This was scheduled as a heat of the state laser title so the Club also missed out on an opportunity to showcase our Club and our dinghy competition to other clubs.

The lawn has been full most Sundays with 15 to 23 boats getting out to compete for the coveted annual Club champion and consistency trophies...the lawn area is not big enough to fit the whole fleet these days.

Every weekend sees some of our fleet capsize and send skippers in for a swim. Mostly this only results in a wet sailor, however, our incident response plan was tested on one occasion when one skipper ended up with a badly mangled finger resulting in a mid-river rescue and a trip to hospital for some repairs.

Our laser skippers have different levels of experience, and all comers are welcome. The Club has taken the initiative to hold regular coaching sessions, which is improving the sailing standard within the fleet. Also, Tackers training courses were run over the summer school holidays for Tackers 2/3.

The CYC fleet is competitive but friendly. This is evident in the healthy numbers who stay for lunch every Sunday to keep the bar and kitchen busy and keep the tall stories flowing thick and fast. The Dinghy section can also be seen booking out tables on the odd Wednesday night dinner.

Thanks to dinghy committee members for their sustained effort to progress preparation, and the imminent finalisation of "safe sailing procedure" for CYC.

Bill MacLeod
Commodore.