

MYLES' MISSIVE 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

Greetings Sailors, Paddlers and Fishermen,

Despite being the "Off Season", our Club was quite busy over the weekend, and all for the right reasons. There was a good start on Monday 28 August with a well-attended AGM, and although no votes needed to be cast for election of office bearers, I believe that PYC has a strong team of dedicated folk filling the various positions. Our new Commodore is Greg de Beyer, who has been sailing here for the past 43 years, while our Vice Commodore is Ron Pet, who also enjoys a long history of sailing at PYC. Jon Marshall returns as Rear-Commodore Keelers, and the super-efficient Carolynne Butler takes over as Rear-Commodore Youth. Now that I think I understand more-or-less how it works, I have agreed to a 3rd term looking after dinghies. Lydia Salt has done a great job in getting our financial records straightened out, and has worked closely with Jerome McLoughlin in this regard. Gencom as well as the various sub-committees are fully subscribed, and that is a really good sign. There is no doubt that in recent years the whole of PYC has shaken off the mantle of being a struggling organisation, and is again proving to be a powerhouse in the sailing, and Durban fraternities.

This was well proven by the number of members who banded together last week, supporting our excellent Manager Darryl Williams, and delivered well received food and drinks at the Beach Site over the weekend. This sort of commitment and camaraderie is what makes Clubs strong. Keep it up team!!

Our Honorary Life President underwent a cardiac procedure in Cape Town on Friday, and reports received are that all went according to plan. Here's wishing Vernon a speedy recovery – we look forward to seeing you back on board Bellisima.

The Quarterdeck was filled on Saturday afternoon with folk who came to listen to our 29er World Champions, Benji Daniel and Alex Burger (who flew up from Cape Town just for this event) chat about their campaign that resulted in a 3rd in the USA Nationals, followed by 1st in the World Championship. Both their presentation and sailing strategies were excellently organised, and well delivered in a very co-ordinated manner. Adding in their humility, one could not ask for more deserving champions. At this stage, Benji and Alex are expecting to not defend their title in Hong Kong, during January 2018, simply because of the significant overall financial commitment. I personally do not have the experience or knowledge, but certainly between PYC, ZVYC and SAS there are numerous people that do, and the challenge that I would like to put out there is that we arrange a combined fund raising project to get these guys to Hong Kong, along with a team manager to ensure that they have everything necessary to give it their best shot. I am certainly happy to commit some money to their campaign, and am confident that there are many others who feel the same way. Hopefully this idea bears significant fruit.

Thank you to the sailors who joined in the sailpast for Benji and Alex – I was pleasantly surprised with the number of boats out for a sail in the sunshine and light to moderate North Easterly. We had Lasers, Oppies, L26s, and the team sailing league's Laser Picos joining in, while CJ Milln and Thomas Funke had their Hunters out for some intense training in advance of their forthcoming Nationals.

Sean Keogh was also seen sneaking in some early practise on his Finn – so, Keith, Jon and Co, watch out!

The SAS KZN Team Sailing team will be in Cape Town this coming weekend, participating at the launch of the SAS National Team Sailing League. In the near future, KZN should have taken delivery of 7 new 410 dinghies, and judging by the commentary around the Club and even the questions posed at Saturday's presentation, we have a growing interest for both Match and Team racing. Rest assured, the Dinghy Sailing Committee will do their utmost to deliver sailing events of this nature, if this is what the sailors want. Bear in mind that communication is a two-way thing – we need your ideas and opinions in order to know what you want. The best way to submit that information is via my e-mail – myles@holburn.co.za – so, let's talk.

Finally, and certainly not least – there are organised sailing events over the next 2 weekends – diarise now, and be there! Sunday 10 September is our Opening Cruise including the sailpast to greet the Commodore and other dignitaries, followed by a race using the Wednesday Night courses. We have been asked by Portnet to hold our Opening Cruise on this date to be included as part of the Durban Port Festival – so there will be various Port Management folk amongst the dignitaries, as well as RNYC's Commodore, as RNYC have requested to join in with us. This is an excellent opportunity for PYC to strengthen our ties with the Port authorities, so please do come along, and remember to be on your best behaviour (at least until the sailpast is completed...) Sailing instructions etc will be distributed in the very near future, but please note that all divisions, including rowers, paddlers and fishermen, are invited to be part of the event.

Over the weekend on 16 and 17 September is the international "Bart's Bash" race. Boats of all shapes and sizes are invited to participate, and hopefully we can repeat the outstanding results achieved last year. Please note that we have deliberately not specified at this point whether the race will take place on Saturday, or Sunday. Instead, we will monitor the weather forecasts, and by Wednesday we will choose whichever day is expected to deliver the better weather, and circulate that decision. In the meantime, please diarise that weekend for sailing.

The dinghy sailing season proper gets underway on Saturday 7 October, where we will be using our more experienced sailors to coach our newer guys both on shore and on the water. The comprehensive sailing calendar will soon be published on the Club website, but anyone wanting a condensed version of the dinghy sailing calendar, please drop me an e-mail and I will gladly send it to you.

See you on the water!