

COMMODORE'S REPORT – 22 May 2020

This season was a strange one at DBSC. It was strange due to an extraordinary number of local regattas, with all the World Championship events hosted in Australia, and the impact that had on our normal racing calendar. It was strange due to the unusual wind patterns, with almost no weekend northeasters, and the noticeable impact that had on Pat Levy! And most of all, it was strange because much of the second half of the summer season was cancelled.

But, it was nevertheless a good season for DBSC.

This year we had a simple three-point strategy focused on (a) training and safety, (b) member engagement and (c) ongoing improvements.

In training and safety, we were focused on quality of race management via LTRAR and refreshed PRO/COTD guides, ongoing competency training, instructional videos, fleet compression training, first aid training, and ongoing BB programs and LTR. Special thanks to Matt Knight, Kirk Marcolina, Christine Linhart, Brett Beyer and Martin White for everything they did on this, as well as to all our competency trainers and program participants.

In member engagement, we were focused on producing our fantastic team kit, expanding our volunteer base, preparing a promotional video (work in progress), continuing Sailing Stories with that incredible Tom Slingsby interview, and our usual array of social functions – season opening dinner, Xmas party, on-deck BBQs and the sadly-cancelled family day and, of course, tonight's Annual General Party. But don't worry, we will party as soon as we are allowed! Special thanks to Jules Hall, Diana Chen, James Tudball, Martin White, Peter Collie, Clare Alexander, and the myriad of other people who contributed to this ... not to forget all of you, our members. We have an incredible bunch of people at this club and incredible engagement across the board. Thank you all for making this club the great club that it is!

In improvements, we were focused on getting our DA approved, then completing the piles project and planning for our solar power project, purchasing a new "Paul Adam" RIB, upgrading the club's AV system and installing sail cam. We achieved all these, with the exception of sail cam, which is ready to go, as soon as we get our long-awaited NBN! Special thanks to John Chesterman, Mark Crowhurst, Andrew Simpson, Geoff Kirk, Nick Pellow, Pat Levy, Peter Collie and Justin Davey for everything they did on this.

And those are just a few of the people that deserve thanks. We have so many incredible volunteers who do so much for this club. Don't forget the tireless efforts of Paul Adam and Shirley Roach in the canteen every week, and of Clare Alexander, Christine Patton and Christine Linhart in running our Women's Laser Regatta each year. And the list goes on.

And a special thanks to the Management Committee of Mark Crowhurst, Pat Levy, Justin Davey, Emily Ball, Daryl Lawrence, Paul Adam, Peter Collie, Matthew Knight, Nick Pellow, Kirk Marcolina, Diana Chen, Martin White, Christine Linhart, Ian Alexander and Jonathan Stone. You are an incredible team and a real driving force behind the ongoing success of the club. It has been a pleasure working with you all this year.

I would like to mention three people who will be leaving the committee this year and thank them especially.

Matt Knight has done an incredible job on our race management systems, our PRO and COTD guides and our fleet compression program. Sadly, he is leaving us to take up a job in London. We wish him

all the best, and look forward to his return! I am told he plans to sail on that enormous reservoir near Heathrow Airport, so it's unlikely he will be any less of a tough competitor when he returns.

Christine Linhart has made an enormous contribution as a member of the Women's Laser Regatta committee, and also in coordinating our first aid and boat licence courses, which have seen 16 people first aid trained and 25 people get their boat licenses. And she has been a plucky competitor on the water too. She will be having a baby any day now, and we wish her all the best! We look forward to one sailor leaving and two returning.

Ian Alexander has been an indefatigable member of the Alexander Family powerhouse. The Alexanders have done an incredible amount for this club, and Ian has been a key part of that. He has been instrumental in organizing our attendance at the many regattas during his tenure on the committee, which led among other things to a record attendance from DBSC at the State Masters at Lake Macquarie last year. Ian has taken on a new and expanded Asia-Pacific leadership role in a major corporate merger of global scale, and is finding himself pulled in so many directions. We thank him for everything he has done!

And that leads to the proposed committee for the forthcoming season. You can see the proposed names on your screen. It is the same as this year's committee, less the three people we just spoke about, and with the addition of David Murphy in Safety & Training and Rod Barnes as Laser Rep. We called for alternative nominations some weeks ago, and have received none. So, unless we have objections via chat from more than 50% of people present, by the time we reach the election on the agenda, this team will be deemed to have been put to the meeting and the vote carried.

Finally, before I finish, what is the latest on COVID? The answer is that racing is permitted, and some clubs, such as CYCA, which operate on private land are opening for unlimited fleets. We remain constrained by our use of public land, in which gatherings are limited to 10 people, and by the size of our clubhouse, which also limits attendance under the 4m² rule. Nevertheless, we are working on creative ways to move forward and resume racing and will make further announcements via the newsletter soon, particularly as it relates to winter sailing. At this stage, we are hopeful that a fairly normal season open can occur in September.

Thank you.