

KNYSNA YACHT CLUB

Established 1910



Newsletter – February 2015

Commodore's Corner

Jim Parkes

We are in to the Year with a flying start.



Our Restaurant and Pub continued to be busy well into January with many members using the braai facilities as well as enjoying a meal or sundowner – it was fantastic to see the Restaurant filled to capacity at almost all meal times and a great number of visitors who were introduced to KYC.

Besides the super KYC-social memories our sailors have had a very busy month with Knysna Yacht Club hosting a very successful Hobie 14 Nationals for 2015. It has been confirmed that the Hobie Nationals will

return next year to our shores! Well done to our Sailing Committee and particularly to Gayle Newby for all her hard work as Regatta Secretary. Proof indeed that we have a really great Club with very dedicated and competent staff and helpers – helpers who are the members of course! We had 22 entries with their support crews at the Club who enjoyed the superb food supplied by Dawn and her staff and particularly the champagne breakfast on Sunday morning. There was a wonderful support crowd of onlookers during the 3-day event and we hope that our members will again support our KYC sailors and visitors who will be here to take part in our February Interclub Regatta too.

The Interclub Regatta will take place Valentines weekend – kicking off with Valentines Dinner in the Restaurant on the Friday night and a Bring 'n Braai party on Saturday night with music and much festivity! Sunday the 15th the Restaurant will be open so please do book your table in advance and enjoy the sailing activity at leisure. On Sunday the 22nd February our Sailors are all eager to attempt the Buffalo Bay Challenge 2, please note that due to lack of support of the Sunday Restaurant the decision has been made not to open the Restaurant on this day but have a Bring 'n braai in the evening.

Our Congratulations to Blaine Dodds who not only won the Hobie 14 Nationals for 2015 but who was also awarded the 'Sailor of the Year 2014' award by South African Sailing magazine.

Pictured to the right



Wishing you all a fantastic Valentines month.

Social News – January & February

Wednesday Lucky Draw Winners for January were –

- 7 Dawn Capetenakis No 36 R200
- 14 James Campbell No 31 R202
- 21 Simon Eriksen No 65 R217
- 28 No draw

Our Friday Lucky Draw Winner for January was

I Van Lier- no 218 R850, on the 2nd January


Congratulations



Happy Valentines Day to you

Join us in our Valentines Dinner Friday 13th – bookings essential

EVENTS for Your Diary (Blue = Sailing; Red = Social) (Blue = Sailing; Red

-  **Saturday 07 February:** Knud's Cup 2
-  **Friday 13 February:** Valentine's Dinner **NOTE CHANGE**
-  **Saturday & Sunday 14-15 February:** KYC Interclub
-  **Saturday 14 February:** InterClub PARTY **NOTE CHANGE**
-  **Sunday 15 February:** Restaurant open for Lunch
-  **Monday 16 February:** KYC Closed – Bar opens 15h00
-  **Saturday 21 February:** Club Class Championships
-  **Sunday 22 February:** Buffalo Bay Challenge 2
-  **Sunday 22 February:** Evening Bring 'n Braai – **NOTE: Restaurant closed**
-  **Saturday 28 February:** Mackinnac Trophy 1

Don't forget Wednesday Happy Hour and Friday night Specials!

Keep track of what is going by registering your number on our SMS system or look up on Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/knysnayachtclub?ref=hl> to be updated on Events and see all the Club photos!

Inshore Sailing

Allan Waterston

Looking at our calendar of events, there is not much left of our sailing season. If you intend sailing this season there is no time to lose, our weather running up to April is great so come on down and enjoy what your club has to offer.

14th and 15th February sees the annual KYC inter-club regatta which promises to be an event not to be missed.

See you on the water !

Photo's of Westminster Trophy – beautiful summer sunshine



Hobie 14 Nationals 2015

From a Report by Steve Eriksen

The Sailing Secretary at Knysna Yacht Club, Andrew Finn reports that the Hobie 14 Championships held over 3 days at Knysna Yacht Club had been a great success. The overall positions were: 1st Blaine Dodds, 2nd William Edwards, 3rd Don Tait, 4th Declan Nurse, 5th Nick Ryall, 6th Douglas Edwards and 7th Don Brink. The first four all being Knysna Yacht Club members was a triumph for Knysna.

Our young Knysna Development sailor, Bhekemuzi Hani, was sailing a Hobie 14 provided on loan from the Western Cape Hobie Association who sponsored his class membership, and his race fee was paid by Knysna Yacht Club. Sailing his first race on a Hobie he performed well although only achieving 21st place.

Pictured right: Knysna Junior Development sailor Bhekumuzi Hani has been identified as an up and coming competitor, and will enjoy support from the Western Cape Hobie Association



Left: Action shot of the Gold medallist Blaine Dodds of the 2015 Hobie 14 Nationals – also awarded the 'Sailor of the Year 2014' by SA Sailing Magazine



Photo's above: Hobie sails always a colourful delight on the water, and to the right Jimmy Cairns piping in the champagne breakfast

Extracts from a Report by John Ryall

The Hobie 14 National Championships held at Knysna Yacht Club will be a regatta that will be remembered for a long time. Superb organisation by K YC, strong winds / medium winds / light winds all made up a for a memorable event of 22 boats. Blaine Dodds won the event for the umpteenth time with Don Tait, William Edwards, Declan Nurse, Nic Ryall and Douglas Edwards giving him great competition. It was noticeable that 6 out of the top 7 finishers were from Knysna Yacht Club with only Nic Ryall mastering the tricky tidal conditions that favoured the local sailors. Development sailor -Bhekumuzi Hani – sailed on a Hobie 14 for the first time (he will be keeping the one WCHCA 14 to sail in Knysna) – *A note from KYC: Thank you*

Day 1 – Friday 16th of January

The weather forecast did not look promising with gale force winds predicted on Friday and very light winds the rest of the weekend. For once the weather forecast was correct with driving rain and SW winds of up to 48 knots coming through early in the morning. The boat park campers were driven into the Sail Loft or took refuge on William Edwards beautiful new keel boat – moored alongside for the duration of the regatta. 12 sailors decided that discretion was the better part of valour for the first race (or they were still fixing their boats in the boat park) and sat the first race out. With conditions moderating for the second and third races this was reduced to 6 sailors who decided that the wind was still too strong for them. There were a total of 5 masts that came down some more than once. There was an excellent braai in the evening at the yacht club.

Day 2 – Saturday 16th of January

A light southerly wind came through which continued to build throughout the afternoon up to a maximum of about 15 knots which made for ideal sailing conditions. Race officer Andrew Finn managed to get in 5 races with only the last couple of races being marred by the reappearance of sandbanks where you had previously sailed over. A sandbank at the end of the start line for

aces seven and eight made starting interesting to say the least. Blaine and Robberg Sea Fisheries provided a mouth-watering fish braai in the evening.

Day 3 – Sunday 17th of January

KYC treated us to a champagne breakfast in the morning. Jimmy Cairns was able to show off his talents as a piper, piping in breakfast and advertising the Piping Tattoo to be held in Knysna on 28 February. A 5 knot current sweeping up the channel made starting interesting especially as you had to get over to the sandbank in the middle of the course as quickly as possible to avoid the tide.

The prize giving was so slick that the results and photographs were on Facebook before the prize giving had even finished. Each of the winners was presented with a handmade wooden boat by a local artist. Klaas de Rooy won the prize for the oldest competitor and Nic Ryall the one for the first junior. Byron Ravenscroft for the noisiest sailor !

KYC is to be thanked for a very memorable event - and at the wonderful thing is that they have agreed to host the Hobie 14 nationals again next year should no one put in an opposing.

The same weekend 17th & 18th January saw a Junior team taking part in the Redhouse Interclub Regatta and they tied in First Place for KYC. Congratulations.

Tide and Beating on a Lee shore - Report by John Fowler KYC

The Knysna team of S Funda, L Papu, A Maneli, JP Kriel arrived in good shape on Friday evening with Coach Mike Pogodin, January 16th. They had the best spot on the excellent camp site including showers and braai facilities and were made most welcome by senior members of Redhouse Yacht Club.



Boats were rigged and ready in good time on Saturday which started out with a light north westerly and developed into quite a challenging South Westerly, variable, Force 2-4, by race start time.

At Redhouse Yacht Club, race starts are timed from the officers box on top of the club house. Skippers briefing was held at 11am and the Open A fleet took the first start, followed by the Gypsy Africa Fleet, and then the Juniors. Appropriate courses meant that each fleet sailed for similar times and 5 races were completed on Saturday.

Knysna Teras started tightly bunched and moving fast although a few seconds short of the line I subsequently heard that only one functional stopwatch was deployed so presumably, the guys thought it wise to start together; though this was not without its challenges. A strong tide was against and the first beat is short, about 500 metres, at which point their problems began. The first obstacle at RYC is a sharp bend (90 degrees, SE to NE) after the short beat in shallow water varying from 1 metre to 15 cm deep on this corner.. After much 'water to tack' and 'starboard' shouting the first lucky ones arrived on the corner and bore away to a close fetch: immediately however, the leader, our first Knysna boat, touched bottom on the (favoured) lee shore and was quickly overtaken. This was a blow to his confidence although he recovered; an excellent race ensued with Knysna boats coming 1st, 3rd 4th and 5th.

Coach Pogodin asked for a technical talk after the first race, since river sailing requires a somewhat different approach to lagoon sailing. Two points were raised, firstly, on grounding on a lee shore, don't try to sail off! Rather jump in, point the boat into deep water, push off hard and jump on (be careful not to push in the direction of the next mark). Get sailing as soon as possible. Second point, stay away from the buildings of Redhouse village on the west side of the course what ever, but especially when sailing against the tide. Its hard to believe the extent to which these houses and trees disturb the wind, for at least over half the river width (60+ metres). The same applies to the run/reach back, although it is important in a Southerly wind

to avoid sailing into the windshadow of the east bank when returning round the sharp bend close to the start / finish line.

The wind backed to a steadier South Easterly, Force 3-4 for the afternoon races 3, 4 and 5. Knysna Teras were sailing fast in this breeze and at least 2 were usually ahead of the Mirror (faster on handicap), even with its spinnaker flying nicely. New lessons had to be learned however. Knysna boats sailing together as usual, often had unnecessarily late starts being more than 9 to 10 secs from the line at the gun. Whereas this wind direction made for an easier beat to the sharp bend, many boats were tempted to take a wider approach, often with dire results. Sailing wider took boats into the cul-de-sac near to the village where the wind becomes more fickle and its where its direction always heads, taking you into really bad wind shadow. Once round the sharp bend the course became a very close fetch, with plenty of problems on the shallow lee shore. Nevertheless our boats worked into good positions and Aphendule won two of these races, Sakhumzi the other.



Sunday was expected to be light winds but turned out to be a splendid day, with courses set up river. Sakhumzi won both races to clinch the title on equal points with Lukhanyo who had to settle for second, very consistent but with less 1st places. JP Kriel, despite promise, did not show in the top spots on this occasion.

Knysna boat trailer was quickly loaded and the Prize Giving was a jolly affair with big hugs for the winners and armfuls of prizes. Knysna boys were on best behaviour throughout and we were very

proud of their performance. Mike Pogodin, for once without Kate who was ill, had an excellent weekend and reaped some of the benefits of his hard training work.

Unfortunately, East London, George Lakes and Mossel Bay stayed away because of reports of contaminated water, although it looked alright to us.

To close the Prize Giving a formal thank you was given to our hosts. On behalf of KYC we invited all (plus missing friends) to the Knysna Interclub in February, with promise of clean water, good camping, easy walking into town and an excellent party opportunity for Valentines Night. The RYC showed some great pictures throughout the meeting, taken by Commodores wife Michelle and she promised to come to Knysna to film our Interclub from our rubber duck.

2016 should be a great opportunity for KYC to win the Gypsy Africa title. Why not campaign a boat or upgrade a club boat, and practice now?

Offshore Sailing

February is a good month for the Buffalo Bay Challenge 2 – let us hope that the Bar lets us through! Bring the family and your friends along for a Bring 'n Braai at the Club on Sunday 22nd for a super day !

Canoeing

Paul Dugmore

Knysna paddlers enjoying the Hansa Dusi promotion at last weeks' timetrials. Well done to the K2 teams of John and Mark Collins and Darren Berry and Nelson das Fontes for managing a sub 42 minute timetrial

Good luck to our Canoeists taking part in the Dusi Canoe Marathon on 19th – 21st February.



Boat Safety & Parking

Please remember that Boat Parking at the club is only available on application. Boats and/or trailers left at the club and in respect of which no Boat Parking application has been received, **will be moved to the Trailer and Boat park without further notice.**

Administration

Tracey Young



I have had fun going through records and printing out copies of old Newsletters. I have put these in a folder in the Library for Club members to enjoy a little walk (sail?) down memory lane. I have also printed a couple of documents I have found named "Milestones of Knysna Yacht Club History".

Note of interest that I found:

'Lady Visitors Bathing Regulations: In February 1944, the General committee noted that Lady Visitors introduced by members were now using the club premises for bathing purposes.

.....Regulation....

- 1. Bathing by Lady Members is permitted on week days only*
- 2. Lady Bathers are to be restricted to the use of the Bathing Annexe only*

If you have any other news items or photographs to add to this collection of ours in the library please do bring them along. Our Library is growing daily.

Library

Please remember to bring borrowed books back within 3 months of lending them so that other members can enjoy them too. Thank you

We are presently updating our records so please do let us know if you do not receive this newsletter by email or sms messages of events and updates on your phone.

Invoices for subscriptions for the year 2015/2016 will be sent out by email where possible. This will ensure that you receive your accounts timeously and also is more cost effective for the Club. To this end **please ensure that we have your up-to-date details.**

Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Thought for the Month

*The best and most beautiful things in life cannot be seen or touched.
They must be felt with the heart.* Helen Keller



The editor would like to thank all the contributors for their input and photos and Albert Lombaard for making the colour copies available at the club for the first couple of weeks each month.

The editor asks for apologies where photo credits are not given.