

## **LETTER FROM SAN PARKS RECEIVED 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

1. **First point of discussion was the concerns regarding the vessels with “live-aboards” and the disposal of black water/sewerage. (Human, animal, any other foreign waste)**
  - There is system in place for the black water to be disposed of at the Yacht Club but is not being used by all due to various reasons.
  - It was agreed that the Yacht Club will initiate a new service whereby a tank and pump on a barge will be taken to the vessels for them to pump out their black water at a fee.
  - The above will be emptied at the Knysna Quays as the facility at KYC will not be large enough to accommodate all the vessels.
  - Port-potties are still able to be emptied at the KYC facility may continue to do so, even after hours.
  - Failing to comply with the above SANParks will issue a fine to the offending vessel and KYC will revoke membership for not complying to Club Constitutional Rules and Regulations.
  - Concerns were raised as to how the process will be monitored. Possibly through a register being signed off by the KYC Club manager/Maintenance person along with person disposing waste.
  - A request was made that all vessels with black water holding tanks have the tanks sealed and inspected routinely to ensure compliance.
  - Knysna Estuary is rated No.1 in the country in respective of Biodiversity and we should all strive to protect this body of water.
  - The vessel may be required to leave the Knysna Estuary or be removed from the water
2. **Second point of discussion was that of Swing Moorings allocated to KYC to manage and facilities for visiting yachts**
  - At present there are 52/54 (to be confirmed) swing moorings managed by the club and all area allocated.
  - Currently none are available for visiting yachts.
  - Up to 4 visiting yachts can be accommodated alongside the KYC on the walk-on jetties for a maximum period of a week.
  - Visiting yachts are currently going on anchor close to railway bridge just off the main channel and this is not allowed to the Knysna Estuary Regulations.
  - Anchoring lends itself to damaging the estuary bed by dragging/raking.
  - It was agreed that KYC may install 4 new swing moorings strictly for use by visiting yachts to do away with them going on anchor.
  - Use of these 4 swing moorings will be limited to a period of 4 weeks maximum.
  - Vessels may apply to the KYC for longer periods which may be considered in the event of no other visiting vessels on approach to Knysna.
  - Knysna Estuary is rated No.1 in the country in respective of Biodiversity and we should all strive to protect this body of water.
3. **Third point was that of identifying a suitable place for safe refuelling of vessels on the water**
  - Often find that individuals carry jerry cans of fuels and refuel their vessels on the water with no mitigation for any spillage which may occur.
  - Fire hazard of open fuel must also be taken into consideration as well.
  - Local fuel suppliers are willing to assist in starting up a venture which can then be taken over by a local as an economic upliftment opportunity.
  - Knysna Estuary is rated No.1 in the country in respective of Biodiversity and we should all strive to protect this body of water.

I trust that the above covers all that was discussed and will allow for required actions to take place as soon as possible to ensure the ongoing protection of the Knysna Estuary.

Kind Regards

**Owen Govender**

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