

Commodores report

KYC 2024

I prepared a longer report for tonight but have shortened it substantially as the section reports are comprehensive

2023/24 season has been a great one for the Club. In short, the bulk of the members are happy with the state of the club and there is money in the bank.

Following last years' AGM a new look Gencom took over the responsibility of guiding the club. All the members of Gencom embraced this and have made meaningful contributions over the year. Within 2 months of the Gencom being elected, we held a strategy session to determine where the club should be focusing its attention and what initiatives we were going to drive.

The main points coming out of the strategy session were

1. Encourage members to become more actively involved with club sports and activities.
2. Attract members with young families to the club
3. Work on the image of the club
4. Communication
5. Hospitality - Put club facilities to better use

Members of Gencom without specific portfolios were encouraged to take on responsibilities with Judith Herald adopting the responsibility for marketing . Geoff Goddard assumed the Health and Safety Role.

The above points have been addressed with varying degrees of success and the actions taken will come through in the various reports being tabled.

The club has many "social" members and to get them to patronise the club on a more regular basis it is imperative that there is a reason for them to come to the club apart from the setting and the views. The food a beverage offering is key to this. We put out an appeal to members who are or were involved in the F&B business assist. Several members offered their support in different ways, their input is appreciated. The changes made because of this have contributed to the improved turnover in the dining room and far more compliments than complaints being received.

A survey of the membership to understand perceptions of the restaurant around halfway through the year revealed that the vast majority of members felt that quality of food had improved, and that consistency was also improving.

Events and shows have been arranged over the course of the season which have also been of value to members. The two evening talks by Kirsten Neuschafer were particularly successful. We have learned from past events and going forward we insist in pre booking of seats and limiting of numbers to make the events more enjoyable for members attending and to be more beneficial to the club.

We have also hosted talks on topics which we felt were of interest to the members, these talks have been well attended and we plan to continue with this initiative on a monthly basis. This is a joint initiative with Knysna Estuary Research Foundation and Ocean Odessey.

Inshore sailing

The club ran a full schedule of events this year including our interclub and Hobie fun regattas, members also competed in away events and came away with some great results. Our senior sailors won both our interclub event and the GLYC interclub.

The learn to Sail initiative gained traction over the course of the season with activities run on most Saturday morning. Details of this are available on the in-shore report. Building on this momentum we have a long term plan to have a SAS certified Sail trainer and some assistant trainers which are the first steps to the club being able to offer more structured training. The incoming committee will need to take this forward in terms of the current informal offering and possible new more structured offerings in the future.

(SAS training accreditation requires a lot more than a trainer and Robin estimates two years, but I think we need to still gather this information and plan out the timing). in the meantime, there is lots of appetite amount juniors and adults and we will do our best to meet this with the resources we have.

The club's relationship with TS Knysna has also grown over the course of the year with the Sea Cadets being actively involved in both our opening and closing cruises, cadets helping and participating in our inter club regatta, we also hosted a training regatta for them – more detail in the inshore report.

Offshore sailing

There has been a marked increase in activity here With the Buffels Bay challenges and other initiatives being well supported. The most encouraging point is that there is new blood in the fleet and new idea and ways of doing things is being explored.

The club once again hosted the RCYC rally in September and 38 international cruising yachts visited our club over the season.

Canoeing

The canoe section remains active with their regular Tuesday evening time trials being well supported.

The clubs two annual events being the Harbour to Heads and Hoogekraal challenges were once again successfully staged.

Not sure what Martin will say but possible repetition?

Our canoe polo teams have excelled, especially the youth team who won the U16 national title

Image, promotion and communication

A huge effort has gone to working on the visibility of our activities at the club and therefore its image by enhancing some of our communication channels like Facebook and WhatsApp. The objective was to keep members more readily informed of the positive things happening at the

club e.g. the growth in sailing activity, development initiatives and events while also improving our day-to-day communications from management to the members of the club

Our website has been completely overhauled and communication channels have moved to KYC Community on WhatsApp. We have implemented a Mailchimp system for periodic marketing emails and your survey feedback was that those were well perceived.

Now we need to continue with regular communications through those channels. A special thank you to Judith, Robin and Nicky for the work that they have put in here. More communication on non-promotional topics and has also been requested. All communications and internal and external PR issues are being carefully considered and remain a work in progress.

We have been working on a new range of Club clothing, some of which is on display here tonight. (we have 4 items we can display)

Restaurant

We have had numerous challenges with restaurant over the course of the season, the restaurant is now in a good place to go forward and with the support of the members we should have a great year in 25/26. Club Managers report will give more detail.

We have added tables and a projector in the loft, so members are now able to book out this space to host events.

Maintenance

We have had a few surprises as can be expected from an old building and thus not as far into a proactive schedule as we would like to be. Pipes bursting in the walls, tiles pulling off the walls and the flagpole broke in half, part of roof being blown off just to mention a few. We also spent some time getting our sail training boats back on the water and did a small face lift on the lady's showers.

We are busy building a 5-year plan but must compile data from whatever historic documentation we can, the minutes of meeting being the only real help here.

Projects this year include replacing Jetty poles, and finally starting with the roof over the canoe racks.

Once our new lease is finalised, we would like to turn to bigger projects like the causeway that is in dire need of attention.

Financial Performance

Then clubs financial performance has been disappointing this year, showing a loss of R103 500, the loss of R 147 000 from the bars and restaurant being the main contributor to this. The treasurers report will go into more detail.

Running the Hospitality section of the club which accounts for about 2/3 of the clubs turnover is challenging, members expect good food and drinks at affordable prices, in order to achieve the quality you need to have the infrastructure and staff in place. To support the infrastructure you need turnover and that is where the members need to support the club in order for the club continue offering the services that are currently in place.

The club's reserves are also not satisfactory for a club of our size, as we will have a problem if we are hit with an unexpectedly large expense and our premises and equipment are in need of ongoing maintenance. A challenge for the year ahead is going to be finding ways to improve the club's reserves.

I would like to thank Club members for their support over the year and hope to see it continue over the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the general committee for the time and effort that they have put into guiding and managing the club over the course of the year. I look forward to working with most of you in the year ahead