

# In-Shore Sailing Report 2023-2024 Season

## Overall Comments:

The season was well supported by sailors.

We had a committed and hard-working **sub-committee** who were passionate about growing the momentum of in-shore sailing.

There was great enthusiasm for sailing and racing. Our fleets gained new sailors and events were well attended and competitive. We had a good number of Finns and Lasers on the water regularly.

A Group of new dinghy sailors took to lasers and have started to join the racing fleet. Around 5 new sailors of which 4 are ladies have started racing and some of our youth sailors have rejoined the racing fleet on a more regular basis and are doing very well.

## Club Sailing:

**21 Saturday Club racing events** were completed, and all ran well with good numbers. Series events like the Club cup also created a nice competitive element and provided motivation for folks to compete more regularly to gain or maintain positions.

**The Dinghy Dash** was something we wanted to create even more of a vibe around this year and with a revamped whatsapp poster and coms on the in-shore group as well as the invitation for spectators to come and enjoy it from the restaurant or bars. Its been growing in popularity with over 20 sailors coming to participate in races and regularity paying off at the top of the fleet. Some sailors were keen to continue Wed sailing after the series ended and a few informal races took place – reflecting just how much everyone enjoys coming out during the week for a late afternoon blast.

**We hosted a Hobie/ All cats fun Regatta** at the start of the season which was very well supported with a fleet of 26 boats of which around half were from KYC and others visiting from Cape town and eastern cape. We will be hosting this event again in October and planning is underway.

## Interclub and Away Regattas:

The tides dealt us a challenging date for **KYC interclub** this year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of January which meant its was a little trickier than usual for other clubs to support us with numbers. We managed in the end to get good support with 60 entries from Knysna, George Lakes, Mossel Bay and Redhouse and a win for Club KYC in the fast and the cat fleets. The event was a great success.

KYC also attended various away events with impressive results including Western Cape Champs, Finn Nationals, Hobie 14 Provincials, Hobie 16 Provincials, Hobie Tiger Nationals, Eastern Cape Dinghy Champs, George Lake Interclub, Mossel Bay Interclub, Other?.

## Junior and Development Sailing

We piloted the Saturday **Learn2Sail programme** with a positive response.

This started with very informal small groups on a Saturday with the intention of providing some exposure to the sport for newcomers young and old. Members and non-members were invited to experience sailing.

Quickly it was clear that there was quite a demand for this, and we decided to focus on the junior attendees ages 10-18 to enable a more cohesive and manageable session.

- Learn2sail sessions were held on 18 Saturdays with attendance steadily growing through the season.
- In total over 250 attendees participated across the Saturdays made up of 48 different individuals - most of whom became regulars
- Many of the regular attendees are now fairly confident on the water and we would like to find opportunities for them to progress from learn2sail to racing in future
- There were requests from various adults for opportunities to learn to sail as well.
- The new committee will decide a final plan in terms of how this is taken forward next season.

**Sea Cadets** regularly attended the learn2sail and progressed in their sailing skills over the season. Funds raised through the Kirsten Neuschafer talk contributed to providing some sailing jackets to these 5 regular sea cadet sailors.

KYC successfully hosted the first multi-station Sea Cadett training regatta. Curriculum and practical sailing input were provided through the learn2sail coaching team with the support of the Sea Cadet instructors. Certificates of attendance were earned by 35 Cadets and 7 Instructors.

### **Training and capacity building**

The in-shore committee with club management are putting together a longer-term plan to train coaches and put more structure in place for learn2sail programmes and hopefully in future more formal sailing training. Accreditation also forms part of a longer-term plan and to that end we have put some budget toward safety boat training, sailing trainer training and first aid training.

Looking forward we will need to decide which club boats are most ideal and plan for their ongoing maintenance

### **Other improvements made this year included:**

- Inventory and maintenance on some of the club boats.
- Aging club boats and required maintenance remains an ongoing challenge
- A small outboard was needed to provide rescue, mark laying and coaching assistance and this has been very valuable
- Maintenance of Willo was also ongoing and expensive (budget?)
- Some bridge and sail wave training also took place
- Improved visibility of our sailing events and junior sailing initiatives on social media

### **Thanks go to all those who made the In-shore season a success**

- Bridge teams
- Resue crews
- Learn2sail coaches and support crew
- Club management