

# OFF SHORE SECRETARY REPORT 2024

## GENERAL

Offshore sailing over the year was fairly quiet during the winter months. Only a couple of overnight sails to Plettenburg Bay were managed by the home fleet; with a missed visit to Mossel Bay, mainly because of a lack of facilities. However, the situation improved greatly during the summer months. For the first time in many many years we managed 3 Buffalo Bay challenges all greatly successful with good sizeable and competitive fleets

Visiting Yachts was plentiful, the highlight being the yearly "RAID" by R C Y, which appears to be becoming a regular event. As usual, K Y C was an excellent host and a big thank you to all members and staff who made this possible. Hopefully, we could reciprocate and have as much fun in Cape Town.

I am happy to add the Clubs affiliation to OSASA is in place. All due to the enthusiasm and hard work of Mike Jacobs and I am sure he will be keeping us well informed of all developments. If you have missed the news, Mossel Bay is now an official port of entry for foreign vessels.

## KEELER GROUP.

Our active keel boat sailors are the mainstay of the Saturday sailing; meeting for breakfast on Saturday mornings and thereafter going to sea if the Heads allow but otherwise brushing up on sailing skills and a bit of friendly racing in the lagoon.

This arrangement was specially set up by Roger Clancy to encourage new sailors and to share our love of the ocean with them. Over the years we have seen many land lubbers become absolutely enthralled to the extent that they have acquired their own vessel and more than a few now cruising the world.

This past year started fairly quietly. As mentioned before only a couple of excursions to Plett. However, the rest of the year was remarkable for four great events. Three very successful Buffalo Bay Challenges and a safety and flare demonstration.

The Buffalo Bay Challenges were remarkable for the best entries ever, good sailing conditions ,best prizes, and great comrade.

The safety and flare exercise was unbelievably good and so well attended by the N S R I and all the various sailing groups. Special thanks to Geoff Goddard for the organisation and the N S R I for their participation and help.

For the future, it has become evident that a great enthusiasm has developed for some serious racing and winter events. It has been agreed that we should pursue this course and drive forward with a dedicated sub-committee.

Just a reminder, that the Keeler whatsapp groups were started by the Saturday morning sailors for the benefit of all members and we hope to see much more activity.

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES.

Buffalo Bay Challenge. The Trophy was awarded to the winners of the keelboat division at each event. The first vessel over the line on each race was a catamaran, each event a different yacht, so the intention is to award a specific award for this category. As full results have been published(very extensive) I have not included them in this report.

The Roger Clancy award went to Roland Matthyssen, owner and skipper of Nirvana. Roland has been most enthusiastic, going to sea whenever possible and always keen to take on the newcomers for their first sailing experience.

However, it was his unselfish and generous offer of using Nirvana as the committee boat for the Buffalo Challenges that decided the award of the trophy to Roland.

The Active Cup.

For the first time in some years we had enough racing to be able to decide a winner. This was easy enough as we had a winner in two of the races.

Congratulations Mkulu and John Kerswill .....

## SWING MOORINGS AND WALK ON BERTHS.

Managing this ongoing and often controversial portfolio would be close to impossible without the help and advice of my sub-committee Geoff Goddard and David Shilton and to them I give my thanks.

Swing moorings are in great demand and we have reached the maximum number allowed. As we are a sailing club our priority should be to give the active sailing members priority with the most affordable rates. The financial return to the club helps to keep the club as a whole, on the profitable side, but we are using the income continuously for maintaining and upgrading to achieve a first-class facility. Our new swing mooring buoy upgrade is well on the way and has reached about 50% completion. I am sure all members would agree that the new buoys are both very attractive and practical.

Walk-on berths are also in great demand and need to be managed for the benefit of leaseholders and all club members.

We have this past year re-written some of the bye-laws so as to make transactions less controversial and fair to all parties.

I thank you all, members and staff, for making the past year exciting, successful, and a pleasure.