



Annual Commodore's Report – 2023-24

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Commodore's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee. I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their commitment and dedication to running every aspect of the Club and keeping the Club focused on providing great sailing, events and social occasions to all of the members. I am also pleased to say that we remain a Club run by volunteers.

Financial and Membership Status

The 2023/4 season was successful for the Club on a number of fronts. Important to the longevity of the Club is both the financial and membership base. I am pleased to say that financially, the Club recorded an operating surplus for the year of just over \$85,000 and has net assets of \$867,864.

As a result of strong financial management and in the knowledge that many members are hurting due to the current financial issues faced by the whole country, the Executive Committee voted to hold the 2024/5 annual membership fees at the same level as the 2023/4 year.

Our membership has grown from 496 members at the start of the 2023/4 year to 511 members due to renew their membership for the 2024/5 year. The club is currently made up of 50.2% Sailing members and 49.8% Social members. There are a couple of challenges that we face with our membership mix and that is growing the junior ranks, currently at 12% and also growing our membership in the 30 to 50 year age group.

Grants and Disbursements

In June, the Club received a disbursement of \$2500 from the Lions Club of Dromana for the benefit of the Junior fleet and also received a grant of \$870 from Sporting and Recreation Victoria. Thanks to Greg Lowe for championing this grant. Bendigo Bank also showed their support for SBSC with a \$7500 grant.

Club Improvements

During the 2023/4 we saw the addition of solar panels across the roof of the Club due to a Solar Incentivisation Program offered by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC). MPSC designed the system, paid all upfront installation costs, and managed construction from start to finish. Once operational, the Club commenced an interest free repayment

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.
secretary@sbsc.net.au
ABN 25795205347
ACN A0009780H**



program of a predetermined fee with MPSC which continues until the costs have been recovered – forecast to be for a period of 8 to 10 years. The fee is calculated to be less than the expected savings in the form of bill reductions from having solar, meaning the Club should save more money than it repays each year. Once costs have been fully recovered, the Club will enjoy 100% of the financial benefits associated with the solar system.

Also, during the 23/24 season, the Club purchased the Blue Rhib as a dedicated training boat. We have had some repair challenges with the Rhib but these are now under control and the boat will be ready for next season.

Sailing

Another challenge through the year was the decision by Melbourne Ports to prevent keel boats from using channel markers as turning marks. Initial discussions with Ports were showing the need for a removeable mark and the EC approved the purchase of a Bot Mark.

Through the tireless work from Keel Boat Committee, Ports are now working with us to set up some permanent rounding marks, outside of the channel, that we will be able to use. At the time of writing the locations were still being finalised and, for the new season we look forward to having some new permanent marks adjacent to the channel markers. As for the Bot Mark it is available for KB and OTB races and will be used for events at SBSC and other clubs as well.

During the season, the Keel Boat fleet changed to Sailsys has a method of making sailing fairer for all competitors. That's to John Wemyss and the Keel Boat Committee for rolling this out with great success.

Community

As Commodore, I met with a number of clubs around the Bay to see what they do well, what we can learn and how can we work together to promote sailing, attendance at each other's regattas and some joint events. This was a steep learning curve and I have got some great ideas to roll out in the coming months.

2024/5 Initiatives

SBSC always wants to be a family friendly Club where members can be involved in sailing as well as SBSC events and be proud to bring their friends and families to the Club.

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.
secretary@sbsc.net.au
ABN 25795205347
ACN A0009780H**



New Rounding Marks

As mentioned previously, SBSC will purchase rounding marks for the keel boat courses to prevent the use of channel markers for rounding.

Kitchen Appliances replacement

The kitchen is now 16 years old and many of the appliances are reaching their end of life. The EC has made a commitment to Snooks Catering to quickly replace appliances when necessary. Over the next few years, equipment replacement will continue always ensuring that the kitchen has the equipment that it needs to be successful and that the equipment is energy efficient.

Acoustic Panels

For those that visit SBSC regularly, you will be aware of the reflected noise in the Club when there is a large event on. The House Committee, Rob Rainsford and John Wemyss have been working on this issue and in the near future we will be fitting acoustic baffles to significantly deaden the reflected sound.

Childsafe Club

SBSC remains committed to being a Childsafe Club and we will continue to operate within the Childsafe requirements.

Change Rooms

The House Committee is working with the MPSC on how best we can jointly improve the change rooms. While changes to the rooms will be a SBSC expense, MPSC have offered assistance to reach our goals.

Training

Training remains a strong focus for SBSC, for OTB, Juniors and Keelboats. As Fiona Lowe stated at the presentation night, this is an Olympic year and Australian Sailing is already making clubs aware that there will be renewed interest in all sports.

Electronic Entry System

The House Committee and John Bacon have been looking at better systems for those that currently enter SBSC when the Club is closed. At present we have lock boxes but these are used by different organisations and our desire is to have an electronic system so we do not

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.
secretary@sbsc.net.au
ABN 25795205347
ACN A0009780H**



have to keep changing pass codes when organisations stop using SBSC and so we know when the Club is in use.

Building Closer Community Ties

Over the next 12 months my goal is to build closer ties with the community. This includes, MPSC, Sponsors, Coast Guard, the organisations that use the SBSC carpark for events, Marina Martha Cove, especially for berths for Sail Peninsula, and local businesses that really do not know much about us. The objective is to boost Club use and to get more businesses behind our events.

Special Thanks

For everyone that volunteers at the Club, thank you. SBSC is your Club and it relies on everyone that gives of their time to ensure that the Club not only runs efficiently but also has enough people doing the things that matter to make the Club work. As SBSC continues to grow we need more members getting involved.

The EC would especially like to thank the members of the following committees that give their time and knowledge to make the Club function properly.

Sailing Committee

Keel Boat Committee

Off the Beach Committee

E-News

Sail Peninsula Organising Committee

KB Club Captain

Junior Club Captain

IT Committee

Junior Committee

Social Committee

Sponsorship and Grants

Risk Management

Strategic Planning

OTB Club Captain

Tower Team

Yard Master

Tony Christmas

Commodore.

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.**

secretary@sbsc.net.au

ABN 25795205347

ACN A0009780H