

SAHCA MINUTES 22 March 2014
At Algoa Bay Yacht Club
Port Elizabeth
20h30

1. Mark Kopel opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. The previous minutes as posted on the class website were proposed by John Ryall and seconded by Mark Wijtenburg.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

3. Chairman's report:

Mark Kopel reported back on events that had been held during the past year.

He highlighted the successful Hobie 16 Nationals that had been held in Port Elizabeth 3 times.

The Dodds and Edwards families had been to Australia and had competed successfully there.

Mark pointed out the number of youth sailing in the current H16 Nationals and said that this bode well for the future of Hobie sailing.

4. Youth

Brent Hayward and Daniel Lawrence had attended the ISAF youth worlds during July 2013 and gave a report back on the event.

They said that the event had been very worthwhile for them.

They noted that they were too heavy to be competitive on the SL16 which was a boat suited to light crews.

They had also had equipment failure which cost them two races, once when their mast broke and once when their trampoline broke.

The recommended more training and lighter crews for the future.

5. Hobie 14 Nationals

Byron Ravenscroft gave a humorous report back on his organisation of the recently held H14 Nationals at East London.

The event was by all accounts a success and Byron was congratulated for organising and running the event.

It was proposed that the 2015 H14 Nationals be held at Knysna Yacht club.

Blain Dodds and Don Brink would be responsible for setting a suitable date for the 2015 event.

6. Western Cape Report

John Ryall gave a report back on the Western Cape region

It was difficult to get numbers up at the regattas.

There were however some encouraging signs as youth numbers were up at some of the recent regattas.

Colin Whitehead had recently taken over the Hobie agency for the Western Cape and this was also helping to support the class.

The 2014 calendar had been organised to group a whole lot of events together in April with a view to attracting the "Vaalies" to come and sail as many of these as possible.

7. KZN Report

Sean Fennessy gave a report back on the KZN region.

He stated that numbers had been growing. However many of these sailors were casual sailors and did not race much.

Informal races had been organised and these were successful and well supported.

The PYC beach site had been combined with rowing club and the diving club and was being successfully run.

Peter Hall was also doing well as the local Hobie agent and this had also bolstered the class as spares were now easily available.

8. Northern Region Report

Mark Wijtenburg gave a report back on the Northern Region.

The Northern Region continued to host its regular events such as the Gp series and continued to work together with KZN to organise events such as the Richards Bay to Durban Epic.

Attendance at regattas had however been falling and it would have to be looked at as to how to re-energise the class.

The Vaal dam would be hosting both the J22 Worlds and the Dart worlds. While these were not Hobie events, they were having some positive spin off for sailing in general and for Cat sailing as well.

The Dragoons had been given to Shelly Nel to use at her sailing school and would be maintained with class funds for one year to see how the program goes. So far the boats are being regularly used. This would encourage a new crop of cat sailors to be developed.

9. 2015 H16 Nationals Bids

Mark Kopel called for bids for the 2015 Hobie 16 Nationals.

Durban and Western Cape indicated their intention to bid for the event.

Andrew Ward indicated that Sebago may be interested in continuing their sponsorship of this event, but would need confirmation of its location ASAP.

Mark indicated that the bids should be submitted to him and the committee would then make a decision on the final location of the event.

10. Hobie SA report

Mike Goodyer gave a report back on the Hobie dealership.

Mike pointed out that the price of boats had increased dramatically due mainly to the Rand / Euro exchange rate and that the price of new boats were prohibitive.

The Hobie shop was focusing more on selling spares and doing repairs and refurbishments. This part of the business was extremely busy.

In addition they would be supporting events such as Malawi and Tanzacat.

Mike thanked Colin Whitehead and Peter Hall for supporting the

dealerships in their areas.

11. New Chairman

Mark Kopel was re-elected chairman for 2014 / 2015

12. General

William Edwards pointed out that the Hobie 16 class remains the only class in the world where worlds are sailed on brand new supplied boats.

Further the current 2014 H16 worlds was the largest ever held. Hobie Cat had committed to at least three more H16 Worlds.

All this bodes well for the future of Hobie sailing.

13. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm