

SAHCA MINUTES 23 MARCH 2013 AT ALGOA BAY YACHT CLUB

Present:

Mark Kopel (Chairman)	Mark Wijtenburg
Jackie Wijtenburg	Hartmut Ilgner
Laura Ilgner	Donald Brink
Tracey Brink	Declan Nurse
Rob Selig	Karl Mainprize
Amy Selig	Bart Fokkens
Daniel Lawrence	Daniel Maidment
Brent Hayward	Philippa McLaren
Byron Ravenscroft	June Dodds
Blaine Dodds	Roxanne Dodds
Andrew Bosworth	Andrew Ward
Anthony P	Chris P
Broni van der Meer	Pieter van der Meer
Mike Goodyer	Ewald Erasmus
Wayne D Smith	John Ryall
Klaas de Rooy	Joshua Selig
Lucinda Edwards	Jodi Mitchell
Allan Lawrence	Richard Ayres
William Edwards	

- 1 Mark Kopel opened the meeting at 19h10
- 2 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes
- 3 Chairman's Report

As a class, we have 4 national Championships, 4 regional and 2 world championships occurring in approximately 1 year. There are 7 boats confirmed for the Tiger/Dragon Worlds taking place in Travemunde, Germany, in July 2013. The container can take 15 boats, so confirmation is vital to get a place on the container.

The H16 worlds will take place at Jarvis Bay, Australia in January 2014. Gordon McG?? can help with the organization of accommodation.

Youth

We have a strong youth contingent at these Nationals in PE, but we need a new generation of youth from all the provinces. We had sent a team over to the Junior America's Cup, consisting of Josh Selleck and 4 H16 youth sailors. SAS have decided that the next youth must sail a dragoon to qualify for the ISAF regatta. However, the youth sail an SL16, and the dragoon sailors will not be experienced enough to sail this.

Brent Hayward sailed at ISAF last year, and all the other countries either train on a H16 or the SL16.

Mark Wijtenburg suggested that we get a signed mandate from each region, explaining the reasons why they don't want to use the dragoon instead of a H16.

There was a unanimous vote with all present that the choice of boat is a H16.

4 Regional Reports

Northern Region – Mark Wijtenburg

We have had a successful year, with the pinnacle event being the AllCats regatta at Stilbaai. There 100 entries, with the H16 being the biggest class.

Richards Bay to Durban is becoming legendary – an epic race.

We continue with our Ultraclass Regattas, which is open to Tigers, Nacras, H16spi. As a result, we have converted a few Tornado sailors to Tigers.

The downside is that the dragoons are left out. We are hoping to increase the number of Dragoon sailors at the training to be held by Colin Whitehead in April.

KZN – Sean Fennessy

We have seen more numbers on the beach, sometimes 25+, with mostly H16's. It is good to have an active dealer who also sails. There are about 150 people on the database. It was the first time in about 15 years that H14 had a class at the last provincials.

Development at Vetchees – a compromise has been reached, we will retain half the beach, but we are not sure when the development will happen.

WC – ???

We have had a very quiet season, with the triple crown events being cancelled for a variety of reasons. There were 40 entries at the Cape Point challenge, with various classes represented. There were only 7 entries at the H14 Provincials at Theewaterskloof. There was a fantastic H14 event at Knysna, however.

Southern Cape – ???

There were 21 H14 entries at the H14/Ladies Provincials in Knysna and it was a great event. However, no ladies were entered. A lot of the old folk in Knysna did not sail.

Rob Holden is doing a good job with the oppies, and moving the little kids up onto Cats.

ByronRavenscroft suggested that they move the H14 Nationals to East London, or Cape Town. He is happy to get sponsorship, and help to organize the event.

EC – Andrew Ward

We have tried a grand slam tournament, and have been successful with various events, in different places: Plett (10 boats); Knysna; PE; and back to Plett.

There are a few more boats in town, and sometimes have 6 on the beach. There has been a 100% turnout for this event with 12 boats from Eastern Southern Cape, and 9 from Cape Town. We get good local press coverage, and you hear only positive remarks from people on the beach.

- 5 Report from Hobie SA – Michael Goodyer
Thanked Mark Wijtenburg and Mark Kopel for all their hard work, resulting in the inland dealership in Jhb doing well.
There are 10 – 12 active Tiger Sailors in Gauteng
Peter Hall has increased the dealership in Durban. There was generally 19 boats on the beach over the Christmas season.

Hobie USA have bought Hobie Europe. MG and Charles went to a three-day conference to get the latest news. The numbers in SA are so insignificant on a worldwide scale, eg, there are 188 WildCats and 240 Tigers being sailed in Germany; Holland sell 15 boats per month.

Hobie USA have a good budget, and continue to do well on the Kayak sails, especially the trimarans. For South Africa, finances will ease up, as we can now buy in dollars, instead of Euros.

The Hobie 16 LE continues to be the biggest seller in the world.

The other F18 boats available are putting Hobie under pressure to develop a H17 Olympic, which may or may not replace the WildCat.

The Americans understand racing, although the French are very good technically.

They have exciting stuff lined up from a big R&D budget, but we will have to wait and see what it is.

From a dealership point of view, WC remains a challenge. There are rumours that Brent wants to move to Mossel bay, although he is doing okay in Langebaan.

The majority of business has shifted from CT to Jhb, but we need to grow CT to where Zac had it all those years ago.

The number of staff in the Hobie Shop is growing:

Charles; Gary Hubach who is very good with fibre glass; 3 workers in the factory; a secretary, and another lady that comes in everyday.

Hobie SA appreciate the efforts made by each class, and each province.

- 6 New Committee
The Exec Committee is made up of the chairman of each regional committee. These are:
Eastern Cape – Andrew Ward
Northern Region – MarkWijtenburg
KZN – Sean Fennessy
WC – John Ryalls (unanimous agreement as new chairman, as Phillip Kitshoff would like to resign)
SC – Donovan??
Chairman – Mark Kopel (happy to stand again, but we need to think about successors. He suggests that every region elect a vice chairman, so that we can elect a different chairman next year)

- 7 Hobie 16 Nationals – 2014 – Andrew Ward
Boardwalk will continue to sponsor the event.
It was agreed that the event will take place over the same weekend – 21 March 2013.

This year there was no press coverage, but Sebago have used their sponsorship for other things: bags, charter of Jester boat, etc, and they have been brilliant, and very well organized.

Boardwalk sponsored T-Shirts, posters, the opening function and the prize-giving event.

We need to encourage more people to come from Gauteng. Mark Wijtenburg suggested a truck that could bring the boats down, to make travelling a bit easier for some.

William Edwards suggested that each region needs to identify the oppie and dabchick sailors and try and encourage them onto Cats. For example, the EC Champs in MosselBay, there were 80 boats, but only 7 H16's.

We need to make a big show at nationals: eg at ISAF worlds, the Hobie Arena made a big show.

Mark Kopel thanked Andrew Ward and his team for a magnificent job this year.

8 General

Byron Ravenscroft proposed that the H14 Nationals be held in East London, possibly in May. There is lots of camping available on the beachfront. He said that there is a strong fleet of youngsters looking for something different. He would look for sponsorship.

Good Luck to Brent Hayward and Daniel Lawrence who will be sailing ISAF youth Regatta in July.

Colin Whitehead will do a week of training before the Tiger Nationals in Langebaan towards the end of April, for anyone who is interested.

9 America's Cup Presentation – Josh Selleck

A few videos were shown, and Josh fielded questions from everyone.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20h30.