

SAHCA MINUTES 5 APRIL 2015 AT POINT YACHT CLUB BEACH SITE

Present:

Mark Kopel (Chairman)	Mark Wijtenberg
Clint Du Toit	Rob Archibald
Justin Butler	James Butler
William Edwards	Lucinda Edwards
Sean Fennessy	Gary Stevenson
Mike Goodyer	Charles Girard
Kyle Boman	Dylan Segery
Aidan Jordaan	Andrea Ryall
John Ryall	Brent Hayward
Rob Handley	Blaine Dodds
Wayne Smith	Byron Ravenscroft
Bart Fokkens	Rudi Fokkens
Hannah Fokkens	Malcolm Gibson
Brandon Wijtenburg	Todd Fisher
Ryan Haylock	Vanessa Haylock
Douglas White	Colin Whitehead
Matt Whitehead	

1. Mark Kopel opened the meeting at 18h30 and thanked the Durban team for putting on a great event.
2. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that were posted on the www.hobiesa.co.za website.

3. Chairman's Report

The International scene was a bit quiet at the moment; however the Multiworlds are happening in July in Garda. This event included 14s, 16s, Tigers and notably Wildcats as a separate class. Colin Whitehead spoke about the i'Kazikati Program. Matt Whitehead, Chris Gough and Doug Edwards were involved in rides on the X40 for Donfeng with some of the Red Bull Youth America's Cup 2013 team. The plan with the program is to either campaign on the Extreme 40 Series (8 months with an event in Cape Town, or Youth America's Cup (2 weeks). The Extreme 40 series would get much better exposure.

4. Regional Reports

Northern Region – Mark Wijtenburg

We had a successful year, the main event being the AllCat regatta at Stilbaai. The following were hosted at the Vaal:

- Hobie 16 Provincials – 21 boats
- Hobie 14 Provincials – 18 boats
- Hobie Tiger Provincials – 11 boats
- Youth Nationals – 8 Hobie 16s

The Richards Bay to Durban was postponed twice due to unsettled wind conditions. We will try and schedule for later in the year. It was noted that winds may be better in January as was the case in 2014. Plan to host GP events in the second half of the year when the winds

are better. Antony Engelbrecht now has the use of four Dragoons for youth development at LDYC.

The association has a healthy Bank balance and the website has been redone. On the international scene Brandon Wijtenburg and Todd Fisher competed in the ISAF Youth Worlds in Tavira, Portugal on an SL16. They Finished 10th overall with a 1st and 2nd in two of the races. Hobie North sailors will be competing in the Tanzacat, Malawi marathon and the Tiger Multi Worlds.

KZN Region – Wayne Smith

Wayne thanked all the competitors for making the trip to Durban. The region hosted the following events:

Hobie 16 Provincials – 16 boats

Hobie 14 Provincials – 25 boats

Wayne thanked the Vaal sailors for supporting these events

Hobie 16 Nationals – 44 boats

KZN hosted a handicapped GP series with both boats and sailor being given a handicap so that any sailor on any hobie can compete for the prizes. The series had 35 entries and 12 races.

A Vetch's beach to Country Club beach race proved popular. A WOW (Woman on Water) training program was started. The program consisted of 4 modules. 20 ladies completed the course. 6 or 7 have since climbed onto Hobies. The plan going forward is to run a POW program (people on water). 8 to 10 youth have started on Hobies. The Hobie 14 fleet is growing with many 16 sailors also sailing 14's. Wayne floated the idea of a Hobie Fest consisting of a couple of days of 14 events, then 16's followed by Tigers. Wayne spoke about our current handicapped GP series with results and prizes for the day, instead of only final series prizes. Hopefully the Richard's Bay to Durban can be hosted later on in the year. Wayne suggested running the event every second year.

Wayne thanked Peter Hall and Sean Fennessey for keeping Hobie alive in KZN.

Western Cape Region – John Ryall

More youth are sailing Hobies in the Region. The region hosted the following events:

Hobie 14 Nationals – 22 boats (up from 14 the year before)

Hobie 14 Provincials – 15 boats

Hobie 16 Provincials – 16 boats

Clem/Gold in Plettenberg Bay

We have piggybacked on dingy events such as the Southern Charter Grand Slam Series. Theowater Yacht club is busy. The Cape Point Challenge (there and back) had 10 Hobie entries. Fishoek runs a monthly race. The Triple Crown at Langebaan attracted 15 Hobies.

The next big event is the Tiger, Dragoon and H16 Ladies Nationals. There is a facebook page and regular email report to keep everyone informed.

Eastern Cape Region – Andrew Bosworth for Andrew Ward

There is a small group of Hobie sailors here. No major events were hosted. Interclub events between PE and Knysna helped for these Nationals.

5. Report from Hobie SA – Mike Goodyer/Charles Girard

Mike mentioned that in the past the target market was middle income group but the increasing costs and Euro based import pricing had made the boats too expensive. There is a lost generation between 21 and 40 year old sailors. Mike said the target growth area is the youth. The dealer has been busy with boat repairs including Darts and Nacras. Looking at local manufacturing to reduce costs, but only if the quality equal or exceeds that of the original part. They are looking at manufacturing the Hobie 14 here. They have bought in bulk for material for 14s in order to reduce costs. The Hobie 16 is still strong overseas. Hobie has just made 10 new moulds. A question was raised about the SA 16 moulds. It was reported that they had been destroyed. Hobie has introduced a standardisation program between USA, France and Australia.

Ullman Sails Durban is making Tiger sails, so these sails are 30% cheaper because there is no freight cost. They have tried to get Hobie 16 North sail accepted internationally, but Hobie set on Neil Pryde China.

Kyle is running coaching courses. International events such as Malawi, Tanzacat and Multi Worlds are keeping the dealer busy with transporting boats in the container. Bringing demo boats from Malawi and Tanzacat is a cost effective way of bringing new boats to South Africa. These charter boats could be presold to ensure they come to SA instead of being bought in Malawi and Tanzania.

Mike thanked Colin and Peter for running the regional dealers. Mike thanked Mark Wijtenberg for maintaining the website.

6. Election of Office bearers

Mark Kopel was re-elected Chairman for the 2015/2016 year.

The regional committee chairmen are as follows:

Eastern Cape – Andrew Ward

Western Cape – John Ryall

KZN – Wayne Smith

North – Mark Wijtenberg

7. Nationals Bids

Hobie 14

Wayne Smith proposed hosting the 14 Nationals in Durban on the 16 to 19 June 2016. This would maintain the momentum of the 14 class in KZN. Knysna were planning to host this to keep it going, but attendance had dropped. Mark Kopel accepted the bid from KZN.

Hobie 16

The floor was keen to have the 16 Nationals in Durban in 2016. John Ryall said that as discussed at the last AGM the Cape 2014 bid was deferred to 2015. He noted that the winds in the Cape are not great in April. Mike Goodyer said that they could host the Nationals at the Vaal. Wayne indicated that the KZN team would be busy with the 14 Nationals next year and would be extended to host the 16s as well. Sponsorship was the major issue. Mike Goodyer suggested that all regions be tasked with finding sponsorship. Wayne said he would discuss this at the 16 Nationals Committee debrief and would report back.

8. General

A member asked if importing used French boats into RSA was a financial option. Mike Goodyer said that the freight was a large portion of the cost and the discounts from France were still good so the price is similar. A pricelist for demo ex-Charter boats will be published shortly.

It was noted that buying a Hobie was a good investment and most sellers do not lose much when selling their boats.

Matt Whitehead said that the ClemGold Regatta will be hosted in Plettenberg Bay in the same time slot as last year. Details to follow.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20h15.