

Boardsailing club of Durban Annual General Meeting Minutes

Venue: Durban bay site

Date: 20th August 2006

Members Present: James Thorpe, Nic Botes, Roland Killian, Doug McCready, Justus Naude, Darryl Pearce, Mark Pilkington, Gareth Smallbones, Reuben Venter, Andrew Vogelsang, Cliff Owen, Terence Hobson, Joan Joseph

Apologies: Rhett Andrews, Brian Busschau, Neil Cameron, Alistair Clulow, Ralph Cromarty, Betty Irwin, Phil Meyer, John Morgan, AT Munro, Flynn Reynolds, Clyde Winter, Jannes Erasmus, Rupert Mayner, Frans Reuvers, Ryan van Deventer

1. Breakfast

Thanks to Justus, Joanne and Cliff for organising and cooking the delicious bacon and egg rolls which went down very well.

2. Approval of previous year's minutes and financial statements

Approved.

3. Chairman's Report

Shaun reported on the year's activities and achievements, emphasising the club's mission to keep its head above water financially and to improve its membership base.

Areas of focus included club fees, membership drives and activities.

Club fees are to be kept the same as the 2006 season's, provided membership numbers reach the break-even point (around 35 members). If we fail to reach this point then the committee will contact club members and arrange for a special meeting / vote on how to address the bay site expenses.

It was emphasised that fee payment is critical to the club's survival and the ability of the club to provide facilities and services for the members. The club relies mainly on a culture of honesty among members to ensure their subs are up to date.

In addition, it was suggested that if each member attempts to introduce a single friend / acquaintance to the sport and club we could easily reach our membership targets.

All members were encouraged to take the initiative to organise club activities, propose changes to club structure and procedures and raise suggestions / take action for recruiting members. Members were reminded that the committee is there to serve the club and any major decisions would always be submitted to the members for approval.

It was noted that the chemical toilet at the bay site, while expensive to retain, is worth keeping while the club has the finances to do so. The maintenance schedule has been changed to ensure it is cleaned prior to weekends and initiatives are being investigated to secure it from vandalism and abuse.

Shaun concluded with thanks to the members of the committee and all members of the club for their continued support throughout the year which has allowed the club to remain afloat.

4. Election of new Committee

Nominations for the 2007 committee were

Shaun Pretorius (083 657 5751)

Justus Naude (084 4494 499)

James Thorpe (082 415 4133)

Cliff Owen (082 550 2297)

No new nominations were made at the meeting and hence voting not required as there were not more nominations than committee posts.

Please feel free to contact committee members with questions / suggestions regarding any club issues.

5. Matters Arising

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the 2007 membership year are due by the end of September. Please make an effort to make payment as soon as possible. Fees are the same as they were in 2006-

Local (within 80km of Durban): R450 pa
Country (further than 80km from Durban): R300 pa
Family membership addition: R150 pa

Note that the additional R150 for family membership is the same whether the primary membership is local or country. The purpose of family membership is to allow additional family members to make use of club facilities via the primary member.

This usually applies to significant other / spouse / children living at home etc. It is expected that relations leading separate lives but both active members of the club join as individual members.

Payments may be made in cash to a committee member, by cheque or direct deposit / internet transfer. See <http://www.stormchasers.org.za/boardsailingclub/joinclub.php> for details.

Once payment is made membership will be updated on the website (please contact James for a password if you cannot log in) and you can log in to the club website to check your contact details and membership status.

Website

Members were reminded of the two relevant websites for local windsurfers-

Stormchasers (<http://www.stormchasers.org.za>) website is not directly affiliated to the club but is a forum and resource for all Kwazulu Natal windsurfers to interact and communicate.

To participate in the forum you need to create a username and password (instructions on the site).

The club website is (<http://www.stormchasers.org.za/boardsailingclub>) and is used to get club information, check membership details etc. Each member may log in to the site by selecting the "log in" link from the above page, selecting their name from the drop-down list and typing in their password. Please contact James (082 415 4133) if you do not have a password / need a new one.

Once logged in you will be able to view /update your membership details (contact details) membership status (fees paid etc) and view lists of current club membership as well as minutes of meetings, newsletters etc.

Communication

It was agreed that in the past communication has been a major downfall of the club and many members were not aware of what club or other member activities and initiatives.

It was agreed that e-mail be the primary method of communication between the club and members since almost all members have access to this facility. It was also noted that the stormchasers forum (see website) was the best place to arrange activities and have discussions. Any club communication will attempt to use both methods to reach the members. In addition SMSes can be used via member's cellular phones.

To this end, please make a special effort to ensure that your contact details are correct on any forms you complete and on the club website membership section (see above). If these details are incorrect you will be left out of the loop.

Club Assets

Members were reminded that in addition to the bay site facility, the club also has the use of a rubber duck and complete learning board and rig.

Both are available to club members for official club activities. Please contact committee members for details.

Sail Aways

The Sodwana bay sail-away was hailed as a great success and it was suggested that more should be arranged for the new season. Please arrange these via the Stormchasers site.

Membership List

The club database will publish a membership list. This will be a page on which all logged-in members can check who else belongs to the club. Ideally we will try to post photographs here as well so we can get to know our fellow members.

Map / Picture of Bay Site

There is currently a map to the bay site on the website:

<http://www.stormchasers.org.za/boardsailingclub/graphics/baysitemap.jpg>

We aim to improve this map and add a picture of the sailing spot as well as written directions for finding the site.

Promotion / Advertising

It was agreed that to boost membership the club should attempt to produce some promotional material. This will be in the form of flyers and newspaper articles.

A number of local free newspapers are open to submissions in the form of articles / club activities. During 2007 we will write articles outlining the sport and pointing interested parties to the club.

The club will also put together a basic flyer design with some pictures, contact details and information about the club. The flyer will be posted on the club website so members can download and print them for distribution. We can keep these in our cars to hand out to people who take an interest in our sport at various sailing venues and also leave them at places of work / leisure (eg. Gyms, sports shops etc).

Newsletter

The club will produce a brief newsletter once a quarter outlining the financial and membership status, reporting on past and upcoming events and activities.

Membership Cards

The club will issue membership cards and new padlock keys for 2007 on receipt of subs. The padlock will be changed at the end of September 2006.

The Constitution

The committee will revise the old constitution and make the new one available for member comment and acceptance.

Inanda Dam

Some of the members noted that Inanda dam is a good windsurfing spot and suggested that the location be investigated as a possible alternative club base site.

There appeared to be general agreement that the bay site was still worth retaining but members also indicated that further investigation of Inanda dam was necessary, both as a sailing location in general, and as far as possible club concessions are concerned.

Clive Bottcher was asked to investigate this further and report back to the club with any information / proposals for club concessions / other opportunities at the dam.