

# Boardsailing club of Durban Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Venue:** Durban bay site

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2007

**Members Present:** James Thorpe, Justus Naude, Darryl Pearce, Reuben Venter, Andrew Vogelsang, Cliff Owen, Grant Embleton, Clive Bottcher, Don Eisele, Mike Manthey, Clyde Winter, Neil Millar

**Apologies:** David Basner, Alistair Clulow, Betty Irwin, Roland Killian, Robert McCan, Doug McCready, Mark Pilkington, Garth Pratten, Shaun Pretorius, Flynn Reynolds, Mike Robertson, Malcolm Stainbank, Dominique Thelemaque, Robert Tweedie, Stuart Wood, Terence Hobson, Rupert Maynier, Ryan van Deventer, Hal Wooding.

## **1. Breakfast**

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

## **2. Approval of financial statements**

Approved.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

Finances

The club had an interesting year financially as at one point we needed to raise a levy from existing members in order to keep our heads above water. At a special general meeting, it was agreed unanimously to keep the bay site running for as long as possible and, at the time, a levy was raised from all members which was well supported.

As a result the club is in a stronger financial position than last year and can now approve some spending on basic maintenance of facilities and assets as well as some promotional material and efforts.

It was noted that a joining fee is now in place that will be required of new members. New members will be allowed to pay a pro-rata amount of the year's membership fees but will, in addition, be liable for a joining fee.

2008 season fees are due by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Please make every effort to pay your fees timeously. If fees are not received by the deadline date, you will be deemed to have resigned and will be liable for a joining fee if you wish to remain part of the club.

### Membership Cards

Membership cards are now issued to all paid-up members. These cards contain details of your membership status and your membership number. They will be required for reciprocity arrangements as well as any special deals club members are eligible for.

### Bay Site

Portnet is definitely going ahead with expansion of the container terminal. Plans are on the table to widen the current shipping channel which will definitely impact on sailing from the bay site. However, these plans are still in the early phases with Environmental and other Impact studies being performed. It doesn't seem likely that the development will take place in the very near future.

The bay site is always under threat from this type of development but we will continue to hold on as long as possible and, naturally, participate in the stakeholder forums and make every effort to retain some sailing access in the bay.

### Vetch's Access

Development continues at Vetch's beach (point development) but there is still no go-ahead for the small craft harbour which will result in the loss of sailing space at Vetch's beach.

The committee has had meetings with the Durban Paddle-ski Club who are opposing the small craft harbour development strongly and making every effort to keep the beach and access open to the public. The result of these meetings is a tentative option for members of the Boardsailing Club to join the Durban Paddle-ski Club as windsurfing members.

This is an attractive option as it will provide us with access to Vetch's beach; rigging and parking space; use of the clubhouse and amenities offered by the Paddle-ski club. There was a lot of enthusiasm shown for this initiative.

The committee will pursue this option and keep members informed of the developments.

## Gust Magazine

Gilbert Preston of Gust Magazine visited KZN and sailed at Country Club beach with us. He is very keen to promote windsurfing and give the club exposure in the magazine. We will be writing reports on events and local news for each issue of the magazine. I would like to encourage members to support the magazine. It has a lot of kitesurfing material but there is also good coverage of windsurfing with interesting local news and information. The magazine has kindly offered a 10% discount on subscriptions to all Boardsailing Club Members. Please quote your membership number when ordering your subscription.

## General

Members were thanked once again for supporting the club. It was emphasised that belonging to and supporting the boardsailing club was about much more than just using the bay site facility.

The club represents the windsurfing community as an official body. This is a powerful force in terms of lobbying for sailing access as well as participating in events and stakeholder forums.

In addition, the club represents the best opportunity newcomers to the sport have of learning and participating in windsurfing. We have learner kit available for use as well as a duty to promote the sport and assist newcomers. Supporting the club is supporting windsurfing in the province and helping others to share this excellent sport that we all enjoy.

It was pointed out that many of the current members don't even use the facilities that much but remain members in support of the club and the sport. Many thanks to all our supporters.

## **4. Events**

There are a number of events coming up and club members are encouraged to support them.

Racing at Sterkfontein – September long weekend

This is an annual event which is great fun and a good opportunity to sail this windy venue and meet up with other inland sailors. Sterkfontein has delivered good wind the last two years and is well worth the trip.

Nationals – November – Capetown

A number of us will be travelling down to the National Windsurfing Championships which are being held in Capetown in November. Dates are yet to be set but the format will include Slalom racing (flat water and possibly offshore), Wave Sailing and Course Racing. Please keep an eye on the stormchasers website for details.

Open Days

3 Open days were held in the 2007 season with good attendance at each but not that many new members have come out of the efforts. We think this is partly due to the large number of people trying to learn on our single learner board. This can be a frustrating process so we may try to focus this a bit more for 2008.

Instead of having free-for-all open days, we will try to get a small group of beginners (2-4) together at a time so they can spend more time on the kit and get more individual assistance. The groups can be booked ahead of time. Please contact a committee member if you know anyone who is interested in learning. We may also charge a small fee to non-members for the use of the club resources for the day.

## **5. Other**

New Members

Please make every effort to encourage friends, colleagues, relatives who might be interested in learning to windsurf to contact the club so we can assist them. We really need to grow the sport and get back to a point where we have a large and active membership base that can support events and other initiatives.

Fund Raising

- Fun Racing  
The club would like to hold fun slalom races where all participants pay an entrance fee and are eligible for a lucky draw purse from the fees.
- Old Kit Day

The club would like to hold a day where members bring their old (but usable) kit to the bay site for donation to the club. On the day other members / interested parties can buy the kit cheaply with funds going into the club.

The dates for these initiatives will be announced. Please make every effort to support them.

A reminder to all that this is your club and we welcome all types of feedback and suggestions for how we can improve the facilities and what the club offers to its members as well as how to better promote the sport.

All the best for a windy 2007/2008.