

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17 June 2022

Commodore's Report

Mr President, Flag officers, Committee and Club Members

Good evening. Welcome to Richmond Yacht Club and thank you for taking the time to attend our annual general meeting for 2022.

It is my pleasure to present the Commodores Report for 2022, this being the 118th AGM of the Richmond Yacht club.

Although we have experienced a degree of disruption due to COVID and the associated lockdowns, the committee and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure that our racing and social events have continued whenever possible.

What's happening around Westhaven?

Planned developments around Westhaven Marina will have an impact for our members in the short, and longer, term. Currently G,H & J marinas have been earmarked for rebuilding with the removal of G marina currently underway. These will be rebuilt as twelve metre berths which will mean that many of our members who have enjoyed being close to the club will need to move to other ten metre berths in the marina. Eke Panuku are also planning on lifting the height of the seawall, through the use of a precast concrete barrier wall. This will start by the roundabout and extend past the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron. This activity will impact marina access and parking so we will all need to be patient.

The marine village complex is now complete and we're very fortunate to have two of Auckland's finest chandleries so close at hand. Both are loyal supporters of the club and deserve your patronage.

To date the bar and nightclub in the village have not opened.

The Westhaven area is viewed, by council, as a continuation of Auckland's waterfront with the aim being to open the area up to as many members of the public as possible. An aspect of this is the planned redevelopment of the area between Curran Street and the harbour bridge. The plan is for the road to be moved closer to the motorway and for the grassed areas to be extended to the new pathway. This will be complemented with planting and park facilities.

Membership

Although general membership has remained steady over the last few years we have noticed a drop-off in crew membership this year, likely a result of COVID and the impact that it had on our Friday Night Special Racing. The social events that usually follow racing were curtailed for a while however as soon as the rules allowed the club opened with mask wearing and vaccine passport checking being the new norm. Members were very good natured about this intrusion and were keen to get back to the club and out on the water.

An aspect of club membership that will naturally impact, overtime, is the ageing of boat owners generally and the increasing costs associated with boat ownership. Over the coming year the committee will be introducing some new initiatives focused on attracting new members. These will include; the availability of a small yacht called an SB20 for introducing those new to sailing to racing and encouraging families to participate in our 'no extras divisions' in our Wednesday Night and Winter Series and a change to racing fees for non-members.

Members have been quick to make use of the new workshop and enjoy the convenience it affords.

Committee

As a club we are very fortunate to have a skilled and dedicated group who have successfully guided our club through a very disjointed year and have learned many new skills in the process. On-line reports and Google meets have ensured that meetings have continued uninterrupted with these skills now providing an alternative to always meeting at the club. Early in the term of this committee we moved to ensuring that all reports are filed on-line, prior to our meetings, and on reorganising the committee's overall 'on-line' filing system. I'd especially like to acknowledge our secretary, Liz, for her work in this area. In recent months our committee has also undertaken a full review of our club's constitution. This has been circulated as a 'red-line' copy for members to consider prior to this meeting.

I'd also like to recognise the part that our Rear and Vice Commodores have played during this year with our regular 'flags' meetings certainly sharing the administrative load.

Tonight Louise Stoddard, Jo Dooley, Gordon Dryer and Mark Becroft will be completing their service to the committee. All have contributed much to our club and we have appreciated and enjoyed their expertise, good humour and commitment to our club. In particular Mark Becroft's contribution to the club is of particular note. Committee member, Vice Commodore, Commodore, Chef and Bar Manager, maintenance man, crew. Mark has been an outstanding contributor during his nine

years as a club member and is to be congratulated for all that he has accomplished on our behalf.

Administration

Kate is the public face of the Richmond Yacht Club. She has an accumulated knowledge of all aspects of our club's operation and has maintained positive relationships with our fellow clubs. Members are always greeted with a friendly welcome and Kate will go the extra mile to help when needed. During our periods of lockdown Kate has successfully worked from home which has meant that administratively the club has not been impacted. Members also enjoy Kate's fantastic photos which will soon be featured on our electronic screen as well as on our Facebook page.

Sailing

Although there was quite a bit of disruption towards the end of the Wednesday Night Series, and the start of the Friday Night Special series, largely our racing programme has continued as planned. Thanks to the organisers and to committee members the start of the FNS series was able to be adapted to an on-line presentation, focusing on knowledge and skills and then once racing started the boat goodie bags were delivered to the skipper's marinas for consumption on their boats. The club reopened for prize giving and seminars as soon as allowed under the COVID restrictions. Disruptions affected our racing again for the Mahurangi Weekend, with the cancellation of the on-shore festivities, and for the Route 66 event with the cancellation of the breakfast. Undaunted committee members and volunteers took up the challenge to cater for our members at both events. A huge logistical undertaking. Once back in full swing we enjoyed great Wednesday Night racing with fleets of over forty boats, and saw the return on some A division boats. This has continued during our current Winter Racing season and crews are beginning to return to the club for prize givings with the skippers lucky draw series prize proving to be a popular attraction.

Looking forward to the 2022 - 2023 calendar our race committee has reviewed the participation levels in various events and sought to introduce new or extend existing events to attract and challenge our racing fleet. Back on the calendar for the coming season is our Night Race to Kawau and we have added a two handed division to our Route 66 and Gulf Triangle Races. New to the calendar this season is a three handed race weekend in November. The series will start with a three handed rum race on Friday evening, followed by a Round Rangitoto Race, organised by the RNZYS, on the Saturday, and then followed up with a harbour race and prize giving at the RYC on the Sunday.

I would like to thank our race officers, Margaret Harvey, Andrew Burr and Trish Beken and all those that helped in the tower, on the patrol boat or back here at the

club. Our volunteers are essential to ensure we have well-run races and club activities for our members to enjoy.

In July, Margaret notified the race committee that she was withdrawing from this role with the club after what has been a truly outstanding contribution to the operation of our racing programme. Sailing instructions, handicapping, start tower, Top Yacht for results are all jobs that Margaret has done for us. On behalf of all of our members I would like to extend a huge thank you to Margaret. Fortunately, Margaret has been mentoring a new start tower team and Andrew and Trish will be key in this role going forward.

Building management

Keith Bekker spends many hours ensuring that the various maintenance and development jobs identified are completed ensuring that our clubrooms continue to serve our needs and are maintained to a high standard. This year he has been pivotal in ensuring that our members' workshop has been readied for use, has developed additional dinghy lockers for members and has installed the electronic screen at our front entry. This will give our sponsors greater visibility and allow the sharing of our amazing racing photos. This year the corridor and stair-well at the rear of the club has also been repainted and the repainting of parts of the club exterior is almost complete.

Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of our club and we are absolutely dependent on all of you to get involved when you can.

I would like to say thank you to each of the key volunteers, both on and off the committee who have helped to make the Richmond Yacht Club the success it has been for another year. There are too many to thank personally at this time. This, of course, we will do with a volunteers' dinner on Wednesday 29th^h June. Being a volunteer doesn't require you to be here every week however every hour that you contribute does help advance the aims and aspirations of our club.

Sponsorship

Loyal and generous sponsors are key to the financial viability of our club

We all like to race our yachts, but what would a race be without prizes for the winners? RYC continues to enjoy the consistent support from a dedicated group of long term sponsors. On behalf of the RYC membership I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to all our sponsors and to ask that you support them and use their services wherever possible.

Catering

Tracey and her team do an outstanding job in our kitchen with the burgers and chips always proving popular after a few hours out on a course. Tracey and her team have been looking after us for over fifteen years and do a great job of catering to our needs. Thank you to Tracey once again for arranging and catering for tonight's dinner.

Closing

I wasn't quite sure what being the commodore of a yacht club really entailed when I accepted the nomination last year. I do now. I could not undertake this role without the support of my fellow flags, our committee, Kate and all of those members who assist on the various committees. To all of you I thank you for your support and the commitment that you have made to the Richmond Yacht Club over the last season. Each of you has worked to your strengths and have contributed in your own unique areas of expertise.

I am looking forward to the coming season. I will have my boat back sailing and am looking forward to participating fully in the full range of events planned for next season.

Richard Limbrick
Commodore