RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB

Secretary's Report
Annual General Meeting
21 June 2024

President, Commodore, Flag Officers, Committee, and members: It is my pleasure to present the Secretary's Report for the 120th AGM of Richmond Yacht Club (Inc.).

Whilst I am given the privilege of presenting this report, it is a collation of the various sections within the club which are ably managed by not only your Committee, but also members of the Sailing Sub-Committee. Accordingly, I have included their names under the relevant sections.

Membership

Our membership data is based on the annual data supplied to Yachting New Zealand together with their affiliation fees.

Membership Type	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
General	53	49	46	54	53
General Family	72 (36 couples)	70 (35 couples)	72 (36 couples)	64 (32 couples)	62 (31 couples)
Veteran	25	29	29	27	30
Veteran Family	16 (8 couples)	16 (8 couples)	14 (7 couples)	14 (7 couples)	14 (7 couples)
Associate	16	18	14	15	15
Associate Family	26 (13 Couples)	36 (18 Couples)	16 (8 Couples)	18 (9 Couples)	10 (5 Couples)
Crew	64	78	63	57	79
Junior		1	0	0	0
Total Paid Members	**272**	**297**	**254**	**249**	**263**
Life Members	11 (incl 5 couples)	11 (incl 5 couples)	12 (incl 6 couples)	12	14 (incl 6 couples)
Honorary Members	14 (incl 2 couples)	14 (incl 2 couples)	14 (incl 2 couples)	14	12 (incl 2 couples)
Total Members	**297**	**322**	**281**	**275**	**289**

Sponsorship (Jacky)

As always, I would like to start this report by acknowledging the incredible on-going generosity and support of our sponsors. Without our sponsors we would not be able to provide our skippers and crews with our racing events, as well as, well earnt prizes.

I am pleased to report that we have again had a successful season for sponsorship at Richmond Yacht Club, in that we received sufficient on-going support to enable us to run our races, and have post race prize giving events.

The main type of sponsorship continues to be in the form of products and vouchers that are used as individual Race and Series prizes. Other sponsorship came in the form of cash, which we were able to use for promotion, event expenses, as well as, the purchase of additional prizes.

We are very lucky to have stable sponsorship with a number of loyal sponsors. Our sponsorship came from long-time club supporters; CRC, New World Victoria Park, Sailutions, Burnsco and Victoria Cruising Club (for the Victoria Friday Night Special). Route 66, continues to be well supported by Burnsco, Safety at Sea/Kiwi Yachting and Sailutions, with PredictWind, Ropeye and Mariner Marine Insurance providing the spot prizes.

We are also hugely grateful for the ongoing sponsorship support from Coolstore Construction, Excel Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Floating Dock Service, Harken Fosters, Coastguard Boating Education, Safety at Sea, Musto and Marine Deals, YachtShare and, of course, Mount Gay who continue to provide sponsorship for the Route 66, as well as, the Friday Night Special; enabling us to continue to provide the skippers bottle of rum spot prizes.

This year, in partnership with CRC, we introduced a new process for winners to redeem their CRC winnings. This process is working well and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith Bekker for all he has done in setting this up.

In conclusion, I would like to note our appreciation and acknowledgement of all our sponsors' support and look forward to continuing our relationship with them all. We continue to look at ways that we can increase the promotion of our sponsors and the products or services that they provide.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors. I encourage all members to support our sponsors by using their products and services - don’t forget to mention Richmond Yacht Club if you do.

Venue Hire and Bar (Chris)

Hiring out the Clubhouse is an important source of revenue for the Club. Following the northbound relocation and subsequent resignation of stalwart Club Manager Mark Becroft, the Committee decided to pivot in 2023-24 towards pursuing more Day Hires (with no bar) rather than Evening Hires (with bar), and we have had moderate success in finding regular hirers for both weekdays and weekends. There is certainly more to do here, however.

Despite this pivot, we have held some private events with bar this year, predominantly for members, friends and sponsors of the club and these have yielded attractive takings. A number of members have stepped up to work behind the bar and do Liquor Controller Qualifications and our hope is that in the near future we will be able to increase the number of private functions that the Club can support, to help our top and bottom lines. Thanks to all of these members.

To support our efforts in securing Day Hires, I encourage Club Members to spread the word to their friends, work colleagues and business associates, about the potential of Richmond Yacht Club for their business meetings, courses and off-site days.

Events and Promotion (Chris)

The 2023-24 season has been an enjoyable one for club members both on and off the water, with only some minor water quality- and weather-related setbacks. We have continued to promote our events primarily on Facebook and through our email newsletter sent out every Tuesday, with additional promotion provided in our quarterly magazine Plain Sailing.

As our committee's work moves more and more onto the Google Workspace for communication and collaboration, our attention moves to using these tools also to better understand from our members what events they enjoy and what changes they'd like to see. For example, following the Route 66 and Friday Night Special events, Google Forms questionnaires were sent to participants, to gain direct feedback on the pluses and minuses before memories got hazy! Some of this feedback has already fed back into our event planning for next year.

On the promotions side, I would like to thank Kerry and Sharon for their newsletters this year, Kate and Rosy for tremendous photos and updates on Facebook, everyone who has contributed articles and photos to Plain Sailing, and indeed all members for attending and supporting our events.

Club Captain's Report (Keith)

The year has had a couple of working bees. The first achieved a lot of small jobs and general maintenance around the club, and the second was focused singularly applying fiberglass to the parapets around the roof of the club, which was extremely weather dependent, causing a cancellation and a lot of anxiety on the weekend that it was done. Although ninety percent was completed on the day due to a great turnout of volunteers we are still awaiting a good break in the weather to apply a final coat. I'm pleased that the workshop area is being used a lot and most of the time is being left in a tidy condition, and feel that the new area I developed for the CRC products is working well.

As I am stepping down this year and I'm disappointed that I haven't been able to complete the goal I had set for myself, that being, to have new carpet laid before this AGM. Different opinions over tiles or full carpet, colours and then the request to price the addition of the clubs logo inlaid at the top of the stairs. Which after a lot of work this was found to be impossible due to the colour range of suitable carpet, but a mat could be silk screened at a later date should this be required. So after 12 months of too-ing and fro-ing with carpet places we, the committee, feel the best option is carpet with glued underlay colour sample as seen on the board at the door, but as the cost is over $30,000 including GST the committee would like you to complete the questionnaire paper that is with the samples.

Correspondence

The Club continues to receive regular communications from Yachting New Zealand and AYBA across a broad spectrum of yachting activities. This has included the request for club's feedback on matters where the club can represent the sailing community on matters potentially impacting on activities both locally and nationally. An increasing amount of concerns present themselves to the yachting community around the Gulf and Harbour, including of note ramp closures, loss of marina space and work to the Seawall.

Westhaven Marina continues to advise us of substantial changes which have been, and continue to be, made to the marina area. These developments are at times affecting club members location of and access to marina berths.

Conclusion

The club has had another good year of racing, cruising, social events and prize givings.

Whilst each year the Club recognises and thanks our volunteers for their efforts with a volunteers dinner, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our army of volunteers, President, Flag Officers, fellow Committee members, and Race Officers, who give freely of their time to ensure our Club runs well. There is much planning and work that goes on behind the scenes to make this Club the success it is, year on year. Often this work is time consuming, and invisible.

Richmond Yacht Club have excelled where other clubs have struggled by being run by its members, for its members. If you the reader have any time spare to help either big or small, there are a variety of tasks you can get involved with, and we encourage you to get in touch with any of the committee.

This Secretary's report will be the last one in this format. We intend in future years to have a combined report covered by the Commodores in conjunction with the respective areas of club operations.

Thank you.