



# Windward

Sailing at its best

February 2020



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## From the Commodore's Desk



With the days already shortening, and summer on the turn, we would normally expect our weather gods to appease with gentler conditions. But with the recent weather weirdness, who knows? Despite having escaped the worst of the weather to date, the conditions have continued to provide plenty of challenges for our sailing program. But challenges bring out the best and our sea rescue and race management continue to provide a stellar job. Well done and a huge thank you to all involved.

Our impact goes well beyond our sailing, and I am especially proud of the way the club supported the **Somers Community Bushfire Relief Evening**. In providing a venue capable of hosting around over 200 guests, we helped in raising some ~\$33,000 dollars. An incredible effort. Special thanks to Maz O'Connor and her team for their amazing efforts. But it doesn't end there and we have been exploring some further ideas for more targeted fund raising that we hope to implement in the next week or two. More anon.

It is especially gratifying that there is growing demand for our club facilities for broader community events, such as the appeal. It highlights the important role venues such as ours play in supporting the local community, in keeping with the objectives of the Community Sports Infrastructure Grant we received last year. To quote from the grant scheme guidelines, the objectives included "support(ing) local communities to participate, recreate, learn and develop together", reviving "the role of community sporting clubs and facilities as central to the functioning of local communities." and "positioning local sporting facilities as relevant, central gathering places; the new 'town hall'."

No question we have been manifestly contributing to meeting such objectives. Well done SYC.

**That's It**

**Mike Sandiford**





## Vice Commodore's Report –Di Otto



Boy, what a season we are having! Where did our Summer go? I'm hoping for a fantastic February, March and April full of the best sailing days ever!!! Otherwise we will have a club full of very disappointed sailors (including my husband!). But there's always next year!!

**CATERING** – It has been great to have Vic back at last and in full swing. We are very lucky to have him.

We are also very lucky to have **Wendy Davies** now in charge of Kitchen Management. Some of Wendy's responsibilities include: Overseeing the operation of the club kitchen; making sure operators of the kitchen have a current Food Handling Licence and Monitoring the cleanliness of the kitchen to a level that is required by the health authority. This makes sure we can continue to enjoy our Friday Night Dinners and other very important social and private functions that our club is used for, both by the members, and by the wider community.

As I have said in the weekly news, our Club kitchen is a Commercial Kitchen and therefore subject to regulation under the Victorian Food Act 1984 – including random audits. This being said: **If you would like to, or need to, use the kitchen facility for a function or activity, you are very welcome, but please let Wendy know first. She will be more than happy to help you out with access, instructions (if use of equipment and appliances is required) and she will take you through the clean-up process.** You can contact her on 0410 516 804.

We have a new small bar fridge located near the now locked kitchen door. This is to hold the milk required for coffees and teas for us. If you do enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and use one of the catering china mugs instead of the disposable ones, can you

please use the facility out on the back deck to wash it before returning it?

### FACILITIES

#### Men's Facilities

At this stage the timetable for our intended improvements is moving toward commencement this winter. Our best case scenario is as follows!!

Briefly:

- Scope/design including plans completed by end of Feb
  - Quoting and Pricing by end of March
  - Review and Appointment of builders by end of April
  - Build commencing by end of June
- There is nothing to report this month on the Kitchen/Bar upgrade as the focus is on the Men's area.

**A Bit of Exciting News** – included in this Newsletter is information regarding Swoop Aero. Their Unmanned Aerial Vehicles deliver essential medical supplies to remote areas. They will be conducting flights from the Somers Yacht Club for a short period of time during the next two months. They have also invited us to come along for a 'meet and greet' and a demonstration. The first one is during the week but if required they can do one on a weekend too. Later this year they will be working with our State Governments to deliver essential supplies and services across rural areas in Australia. So please have a read of their information included in this newsletter.

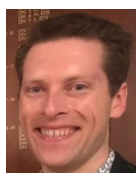
**Let's stay together and have fun-happy sailing!**







## Rear Commodore's Report



### Sean Bly

As Summer draws to a close, and with Autumn creeping up quickly, we have just 20 more races left for the 2019/2020 season. Winds have been on the winder end of the scale, resulting in a few lost races so far. Needless to say, those races that have been completed have made for some tired sailors in the boat park. With just over half the season now in the books, it's no wonder that we're all anticipating an exciting Championship series as the end of the season draws closer.

Since last report, we've had sailors out and about, starting with the Westernport Laser Regatta. Four of our sailors represented our club in a fleet of 16 boats. After 3 races, Richard Jagger won both the Overall and Masters Division, with Wendy Wilson winning the Womens division. Steve Clifford, David Fakhry and Michael Bailey also made the trip over to race. Thanks again to Point Leo for hosting with their trademark hospitality.

Wendy Wilson, along with Libby Moore, competed at the Sabre State Titles over at Safety Beach. In a large and highly competitive fleet, I'm sure they've both learnt a lot about how to position on busy start lines and sailing in large fleets, and will no doubt bring those skills to bear during our remaining races.

Closer to home, the weather was kind to us on the Australia Day weekend, with 77 finishing at least one race in the Commodores Cup/Williams Pt Regatta. A fantastic turnout, and it really showcases our club as one of the top off the beach clubs in the state.

With all the activity going on around the club, I'd like to show my appreciation for the effort our tower and rescue boat volunteers give every week. On any given Saturday, there are at least six volunteers in the tower, ten people on our rescue boats, as well as our tractor drivers, bar volunteers, and those that help get the rescue boats on the trailers at the end of the day. To each of you – THANK YOU! Your assistance contributes towards the

enjoyment of our sailors, and to the strength of our community.

For the rest of us, there are few things we can do to aid our volunteers. I've personally learnt a lot from sitting in the tower on race days, and seeing what is going on. I encourage anyone to spend an afternoon in the race management, and get an appreciation of the hum of activity that goes on up there. At the end of the day, please get down to the beach and give the team a hand to get the rescue boats hitched onto the tractor. It's the little things like this, when shared around, help to make things run smoothly.

The Windward Mark bar is a great place to come and have a chat about what you like about our racing program, and how we can do even better. One of the major talking points has been that our back to back races are on the longer side of ideal. Our race management team aim for a target time of around 40 – 45 mins, and the team have made some great progress towards getting the course length right, but we're not quite there yet. Between looking at shortening course lengths, reducing laps, or using our Shorten Course flag more, we're going to keep working to get the balance right. Stay tuned, and keep the feedback coming - we are listening!

Finally, we're looking forward to welcoming Hobies from near and far to Somers on the March long weekend for their State Titles. Word on the street is that up to 40 boats will be gracing our waters, and there will be plenty of fun activity, both on and off the water. These events don't happen without a significant amount of planning and volunteer hours, so thank you to those who have contributed.

In the meantime, may the rest of the sailing season bring fair winds, shorter races and lots of fun!





## Division Reports

### Division 1— Peter Foulsum

Firstly, congratulations to the Hobie 16 fleet for representing Somers Y.C. at the 2020 Westernport Challenge at Cowes Y.C. on a bleak, grey, cold and windy day. Not only did they represent us; they cleaned up !! Nigel and Abi Beddoe were just warming up on the way over to Cowes, pushing the limits and put the leeward bow in and subsequently capsized. This was just putting them in the groove for the race which they subsequently won overall division 1, overall multihulls and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Simon Morris & Gideon Segal came in 2nd Multihull, and Emma & Zoe Morris took 3rd overall to take a clean sweep of the podium. Emma Morris also won the Female Skipper award to provide a great foundation for Somers to successfully retain the Westernport Challenge.

Pete Dalton kept the Hobie 16s company and came in a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place in division 1. Special mention also goes to Naomi and Timothy Chiu and Anthony and Hugo Davenport for making the trip over and placing and very creditable 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively.

The following Saturday it was back to ideal 10 to 15 knot winds for the Rear Commodores Choice with sunny warm conditions and dolphins playing at the finish line/rounding mark. With a reaching start and an unknown number of laps; just keep going until the shortened course flag goes up they said !! Most of the Hobie 16s took the day off and it was Jeremy Pearse lead that the multihulls in both races. Well done Jeremy. Great to see Ben Gristwood crewing again for Brian.

Ideal trapezing conditions always show whether the trapeze wires are in good condition. Bad luck to Andy Griffin who took a swim from a broken wire. Hope it's all good now. Justin Prior was also out of action for a few weeks due to a hairline fracture in the front beam resulting in a total beam replacement.

The next weekend it was the Australia Day long weekend with surprising light to moderate winds for the Commodores Cup/Williams Point Regatta. Jeremy Pearse again took line honours overall, hotly pursued by Robbie Lovig with Torben Wick and Pete Dalton in 3<sup>rd</sup> place on yard stick and the same three on the podium on handicap with Robbie and Torben taking 1<sup>st</sup> place. Good to see Justin and Gina back on the water again.

And so it was back to strong winds the following weekend with sand stinging your legs on the beach and increasing in strength through the afternoon. Time for some yacht maintenance with yachts being checked or having rudders checked and tuned. With the wind gods willing, we will all be back on the water soon !!

All club race results can be found on the yacht club website.

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## Division Reports

### Division 2 –Steph Schwarz



What a great AUSTRALIA DAY weekend!

The weather was good the wind was good the sunshine was good, the race management was sensational, thanks guys and gals.

On Saturday we had 57 boats on the water and about 77 sailors enjoying the sailing.

Race 1 saw Gideon 8<sup>th</sup> in the multihulls, Steph 9, Phil 14, Peter T 16, Jack and Will 17<sup>th</sup>.

Race 2 it was Gideon 7<sup>th</sup>, Phil 12, Steph 13, Peter T 15, Jack and Will 18.

Race 3 Harrison 0, Steph 12, Peter 17, Jack and Will 18.

Race 4 Gideon led us by finishing 8<sup>th</sup>, Harrison 10, and Steph after rudder problems 15<sup>th</sup>.

Race 5 was not going to happen as there was no wind at 10.30, but luckily the wind crept in by 11am and saw only two of us James Briggs with his new PT and Steph. James did very well, keeping close behind Steph all way round.

Champ heat 2 saw Vlad the only PT finisher, followed by Zoe and Matilda, Benji and Kate, Jack and Huia. Champ 3, Harrison led the field from Zoe and Matilda, Vlad after falling through his trampoline, then Will and Harry, and Sam and Mackenzie.







## Division Reports

### Division 3 -Nick Carter

The sailing conditions this season continue to be a challenge with winds generally from the East or South in the 15-20+ knot range. Hats off the Race Officers and Rescue Boat Crews, for managing the racing in these challenging conditions.

The Laser Radials skippered by Nick and Richard have been performing well in the bigger breezes, as have the Contenders driven by Michael and Patrick. At the time of writing, the two Contenders are pretty much locked together in the championship series with a win a piece, with Mike's Impulse occupying the Bronze Medal position for now. Lighter breezes between 5-7 knots with lumpy sea's and heavy tides, have been forecast for all races up until the end of the season, meaning the planing boats will struggle and the skippers of the displacement hull boats will be set to dominate. (yeah right!!)

Phil and Oliver Schwarz competed this year in Sail Melbourne and you can indeed see glimpses of them on YouTube at the event in Brighton. They have come back to the local competition full of world class fleet experience, and right out of the blocks (in lighter conditions for two races in the Commodores Cup), basically blitzed the fleet, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> in heat 1 and a win in heat 5. This series was won by Michael Vandenberg, with Glenn and Sean making up the podium positions.

The Norm Dewar Series Heat 2 was a drag race, between the Tasar of Amanda and Maureen and the Finn. One lap (post the Championship race) in the rain, clouds, heavy breeze with big sea's, was very very enjoyable indeed, it was one of those "good to be alive moments" for me anyway. The Tasar took the honours with a 40 second win over the Finn. For the record, I really like the two race format, especially if race 1 is a true long course event, it gives all classes time to settle into a pattern, recover from mistakes or capitalise on good decisions; it also brings the physicality of the sport into play, something that you will need if sailing a regatta series outside the club environment.

Finally, starts have been more competitive this year, with what seems like smaller lines and more boats; some skippers choosing to luff on the line with an outgoing tide (that's always good to watch), others opting for a Port Start (Mr Commodore) and other skippers putting late comers to the line, into the start boat, all conducted in good spirits and in good fun. The start process in a close fleet, really does emphasises the need to get the first hundred meters or so off the line right, in order that you secure clean air, and ensure you are well positioned for the first reach to maximise or defend any advantage that you have at the top mark.

See you on the water.

Nick AUS280





## Division Reports

### Division 4 –Libby Moore

Division 4 has been well represented in our races this season and it has been particularly pleasing to see new sailors in the division. Lil and Cas Healy who have completed adult sail school and SWISH are now competitive in the division and continue to improve their sailing skills.

Other new sailors are Ava Otto and Freddie and Eliza Otto who with their dad's Lachie and Matt have persisted as crews on days where some of us grown ups would want to return to the warmth of the club house. Grandpa Mal is scooping the pool at present with his sailing prowess with Grahame Tiplady close behind him.

Wendy Wilson in Heart Beat consistently sails well and was awarded a trophy for her consistency at the recent Sabre States. Libby Moore is sailing her new boat Nauti Gull which has a sail number 1948. If you forget how old Keith is just check the sail number.

Stephen Teh and Dennis Paskins have been notably absent from the division and we are hoping they will soon come out of hibernation and join in the fun. Caitlin Bly has moved between division 3 and division 4. She cannot compete two up in the Sabre so her racing will have to resume after July.







## Division Reports

### Division 5



They know their flags, go for a swim before the race starts, sing on the water, and they have no fear. They're legends!







## SWISH

According to the dictionary the word 'swish' has three meanings.

1. move with a hissing or rushing sound. (That's the sound our Pacers make as they race across the water)
2. sink a shot without the basketball touching the backboard. (We never hit the buoys)
3. impressively smart and fashionable. (No explanation required)

SWISH (Somers Women In Sailing Happiness) is a Friday afternoon social sailing event for women using the club's Pacers. No sailing experience is needed- support is provided by experienced female sailors or you can watch from the power boat. Followed by a social chat, drinks and nibbles.



<https://www.trybooking.com/BGIXM>

SWISH involves meeting local women, learning a new skill and afterwards drinking champagne. What's not to love?

For more information please contact Wendy Wilson: Mob: [0407876950](tel:0407876950)







## Westernport Teams Regatta Sun. 5th. January.

Teams Racing involved teams of three Pacer sailing dinghies competing against other teams in a 'round robin' event. Racing was in 3 divisions, so experienced and novice sailors were catered for .

It is a fast-paced racing style which encourages good boat handling skills and rapid tactical decision making.

But it's great fun, combining all the strategic and physical attributes of both sailing and team sports. And it pays to know your sailing rules. For example, boats have the option to do one penalty turn after an infringement. If you don't do the spin, you do two penalty turns if you choose to sail on and are penalised by an umpire.

The course was short, and with reasonable wind each race took less than thirty minutes.

The day produced a total of ten teams; two from Flinders, four from Westernport, three from Merricks and one from Somers. Our team, Somers Birds of Spray, comprised Libby M, Wendy D, Caitlin D, Wendy W, Sophie D, Maddi M, Lisa T and Colleen M.



Sister Act. Caitlin and Sophie



It was an awkward scramble swapping teams over while on the water.

Teams racing rewards good starting, boat speed, boat handling, rules knowledge and teamwork skills.

Pacers are well suited to the close boat on boat action.





## Bushfire Relief.

Hosted by Janis House and Maz O'Connor

Henry Rosso, a noted philanthropist once said "Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving".

This year, all over Australia, communities have rallied to support people affected by devastating bushfires. None more so, than the village of Somers.

A wonderful evening of music, wine, food and a silent auction raised just under **\$34,000**, forwarded to the Red Cross Bushfire Relief & Recovery Appeal.

As with many of these events, the end result was not just raising a substantial amount of money. A sense of generosity, an event attended and supported by all ages from the very young to the not so young, neighbours meeting neighbours and making new friends, folk good naturedly pushing prices up and everyone enthusiastically joining in.

Some special mentions:

Somers General Store for donating the ice-cream  
Di Nutting and Emily Davenport for the cheese platters  
The Cassani family for the barbeque.



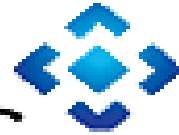
"Don't mention the elephant in the room!".







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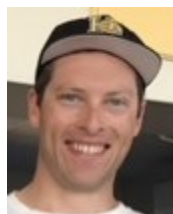
## The General Committee 2020-2021



Commodore  
Mike Sandiford



Vice Commodore  
Dianne Otto



Rear Commodore  
Sean Bly



Treasure  
Tim Brock



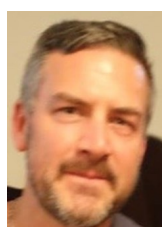
Secretary  
Roy Higginson



Membership  
Libby Moore



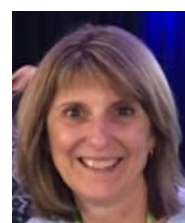
Social  
Lisa Tuck



OHS  
Nigel Bedoe



Sailing School  
Emma Morris



General Committee  
Dianne Grahame



Bar  
Keith Moore



Facilities  
David Goble



Amanda Nutting  
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# Club Contacts

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