

WAIDA President's Report for Financial Year Ending 30 April 2022

Dragon sailors are to be commended on the success of the 2021/22 season. The effects of COVID 19 were minimal with only interstate travel disrupted thus resulting in deferment of the PPC to January 2023.

Significant events for the season included:

- (a) Pre-season the Women's Helm Regatta with 8 teams competing was enjoyed by all. A perpetual trophy, the "Saracen Plate" generously presented by the Parker family was awarded to Saphira (Phillipa Packer, Grant Alderson and Dean McAuley) against other serious competition. Thanks to Sandy and Ray for the organisation of the event.
- (b) To celebrate the Women's Helm Regatta and commencement of the racing season, an evening function was held at the club following completion of racing.
- (c) With 31 Dragons on the RFBYC register, 23 boats competed in the season with 12 on average per race. A healthy continuation of the Dragon fleet at RFBYC.
- (d) Interstate competition was limited by COVID-19 with the Prince Phillip Cup postponed to Jan 2023.
- (e) A financially strong position was maintained under the stewardship of Treasurer John Anderson.
- (f) Pre Xmas-Saturday morning training continued under the organisation of Ian and Ray. Emma Shand, one of the women helm skippers, will continue as an addition to the fleet being the new owner of French Connection.
- (g) The weather gods were exceedingly favourable for the "States" regatta in March allowing all races to be sailed in ideal breezes and no delayed starts. Many thanks to Race Officer Geoff Brown, his team, and other volunteers for the successful regatta. 15 Dragons competed with the champion being team Scoundrel (1st), team Gordon (2nd) and team Canewdon Witch (3rd). Team Wizardry won the handicap trophy with Tatsu 2nd and Pennyfarthing 3rd. Of note all 15 boats sailed in all races with only a single OCS and no other disqualifications.
- (h) Dragon stalwart and Patron Peter Hay sadly passed away in September leaving a legacy of an extensive involvement in sailing, especially to the Dragon Class. Peter's guiding hand and extensive knowledge of Dragons will be missed. Andrew Locke, a long term sailor in the Dragon fleet, has accepted the position of Patron. Many of us know Andrew and we all welcome his appointment.
- (i) Following Peter Hay's passing, the Teams race has been renamed the Annie and Peter Hay Memorial Race.
- (j) Championship and Consistency results for Saturday racing included:
Championship: Scoundrel (Willie Packer) 1st, Shapes (Geoff Totterdell) 2nd and Canewdon Witch (Trish Ford) 3rd.
Consistency: Shapes (Geoff Totterdell) 1st, Canewdon Witch (Trish Ford) 2nd and Indulgence (Kevin Palassis) 3rd.
- (k) The aptly named Dragon bar continues to be regarded as place where Dragon camaraderie is most evident. Skippers and crews no longer racing are most welcome to this after-race social event.
- (l) Additions and changes to the Dragon Fleet included Richard Lynn's Gordon; Emma Shand taking on French Connection, Commodore Rob Parker purchasing Whim and John Wallis taking on Solvent. A big welcome to all and their crews. Also our very best wishes to Ron Packer and Robin Hammond.

In closing the following deserve our thanks for their commitment.

- (a) The WAIDA Committee for an enjoyable and successful season. Special thanks to Secretary David, Treasurer John and Fleet Captain Kevin for their major contributions.
- (b) RFBYC, its generous volunteers, Flag officers and sailing administration team thus enabling the fleet to enjoy racing and camaraderie. A special thank you to Sharon and Debbie for their outstanding contribution to sailing administration. Sharon's move to SPYC is our loss but we are grateful for her dedicated contributions over the years.
- (c) Yacht Grot for their continuing support with the provision of prizes.
- (d) Collectively to all Dragon sailors, volunteers, and supporters for their contributions and participation in the Dragon fleet in Western Australia.

Regards

Rod Williams