

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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July 2009

**ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Pt Chevalier Yacht Club, AKL
1930hrs, Wednesday, July 29th, 2009
Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters arising from the previous meeting
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Budget and Subscriptions
8. Election of Officers
 - *Patron:* Noel May has agreed to stand for another term.
 - *President:* A Aitken has agreed to stand for a final term.
 - *Secretary:* R Ebert has agreed to stand for another term.
 - *Treasurer:* A Aitken has agreed to stand for a final term.
 - *Auditor:* Richard Ineson (Richard is a ZOA member, but is not a signatory for ZOA accounts and has no financial input other than general accounting advice).
 - *Regional Representatives.* AZO, HAZO, CZOA.
9. General
 - Notice of Motion "That the President be allocated an honorarium of \$250 for services rendered" R Ebert/P Stokell
 - Measuring Zephyrs
 - Building Report
 - Mast/Sail Report
 - National Contest 2009-10
 - Other Items

Editorial

I have kept this issue of West Wind down to a single page, mostly because the financial statements were not quite ready for publication. I will publish them after the Annual General Meeting.

Alex Aitken's Resignation: Alex Aitken has indicated he wants to make this his last year as President and Treasurer. A replacement in this latter role will be particularly important if the trading side of the ZOA is to be maintained.

Carbon Masts: The Committee is investigating carbon masts, but there is no real intention to move from alloy at present. They look like being more expensive, with a probable performance gain - two issues we don't really need. I will have a full report in the next West Wind.

Rob Ebert

From the Pen of Alex Aitken National President



Greeting to all Zephyr owners throughout the country. This past sailing season for the Zephyr fleets ends on a high note with plenty of activity recorded on and off the water.

Late in 2008 we witnessed the passing of the designer of the Zephyr class, Des Townson and I had the privilege of attending his memorial service. Des devoted his life to designing and building dinghies and cruising yachts, and in latter years a number of Electron model yachts. Des took part in the 50th Anniversary of the class in 2006. With considerable pride, he was able to talk about many of the Zephyr hulls he built in his workshop and they were part of the large fleet lined up on the Milford Beach prior to the invitation race.

This past year has been eventful with a number of boats changing owners with a fair amount of restoration work and upgrading taking place. Three new hulls have been built and a fourth, #521 has just been completed for Richard MacKay in Christchurch. This will be the first of the 500 series to make its way to Canterbury, and it will no doubt receive a thorough inspection and the new owner will get plenty of good advice.

The trading side has been very active with the main emphasis on upgrading the alloy mast to an acceptable standard. This took considerable time and effort but the end result was pleasing. Thanks to Paul Smith, Manager of Northland Spars, who ensured the association received a quality product. There has been speculation that a carbon fibre mast could be a proposition. However, the estimated cost of the final product was around two and a half times more than the alloy mast. The debate over a mould to produce plastic Zephyrs has also ended up in the dead letter box, mainly because of economics, weight to strength ratio - and that the thought of a plastic classic is unbearable! (my words). A few minor updates to the Zephyr sail have been approved and we now have a double velcro tie that ensures the battens stay firmly secured.

The National contest in January this year was well attended by the North Island fleet. The weather played its part and Naval Point Club Lyttelton proved to be an ideal venue. Peter Stokell, Russell and Brenda Wenham, members of CZOA played an active administrative role in organising to contest. The national association - ZOA, wishes to record a vote of thanks to Peter, Russell and Brenda for their dedicated service over a number of years. All three have resigned from office. Peter wants a rest, Russell and Brenda are very busy raising a young family.

It appears that Auckland, Tauranga and Wellington fleets are well and active with good social interaction. The Hamilton area reports to be attracting a small, ageing fleet and our dedicated ZOA secretary, Rob Ebert needs some support and ideas to bolster enthusiasm.

On July 29 at the AGM at Point Chevalier Yacht Club I will be announcing my intention to retire from the roles of President, Treasurer and Trading Corner coordinator. Twelve years at the helm is enough. and it's time to move aside and let the younger generation take an active role in leadership and planning for the future. In order for the incoming ZOA executive to work through the appointment process I intend to end my involvement at the 2010 AGM.

Alex Aitken

Zephyr Owners' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Christchurch Yacht Club
1930hrs, September 4th, 2008

Attendance: A Aitken (Chair) R Ebert (Secretary), R Mackie, R Wenham, G Mantell, A Holland, W Beere, L Ebert, B Elliott, M Hannah, T Snedden (AZO), R Proko, P Croft, J Foster, A Ebert, M Agnew, P Stokell.

Apologies: D Le Page, J O'Leary, G Hutt, T Kite, R Ineson. *Accepted, Aitken/Ebert*

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the Pt Chevalier Yacht Club, Auckland, on Sept 17th, 2007, previously published in the West Wind, were taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting. *Stokell/Snedden.*

Matters Arising: Nil

President's Report: Circulated in the West Wind and taken as read. *Accepted A Ebert/Mackie*

Treasurer's Report: The accounts had been published in the West Wind. A Aitken indicated that an audited set of accounts was available for inspection. A Aitken elaborated on a number of items in response to queries. Stock on hand indicted 10 sails, reflecting a purchase just before years end. This is the agreed number to qualify for a 15% discount. Veneer stock on hand reflects would remaining to complete future hulls. The \$5k surplus was attributed to a stable trading year, with issues relating hull and sail construction, which had some costs, having been resolved. The \$30k of accumulated funds was felt to be an excellent position for the Association. *Accepted, Aitken/Hannah*

Budget: A Aitken briefly outlined a budget aimed at having subscriptions cover administration expenses and recommended subscriptions remain at \$20. *Aitken/R Ebert*

Election of Officers

The following Officers had agreed to continue, and, there being no other nominations, were elected unopposed.

Patron: N May

President: A Aitken

Secretary: R Ebert

Treasurer: A Aitken

Auditor: R Ineson

Regional Representatives: The following members were elected. Russell Turner (AKL), Keith Paine (Hamilton), Peter Stokell, Matt Hannah, (Chch). The incoming President of AZO was also elected, ex officio. Tony Crew was nominated as a contact person for Wellington.

General Business

Auditor: A Aitken expressed appreciation for the contribution R Ineson made in auditing the accounts. He felt a letter of appreciation and a suitable gift voucher would be appropriate. *Aitken/Hannah.*

President's Honorarium: The motion "that the President be allocated an honorarium of \$250 for services rendered" was carried. Ebert/Stokell

Treasurer: R Mackie expressed appreciation for the additional work A Aitken did as Treasurer in addition to his Presidential role. He proposed an additional honorarium of \$250. A Aitken departed the room for discussion. Carried *Mackie/A Ebert*

Rule Changes:

Rule 3.1.1 Mast Track: *Masts to be supplied with welded top cap, sail track cut away to maximum of 1050 mm above the heel. The sail track may be further cut away to a maximum of 1150mm above the heel.* This rule was signed by six members and passed unanimously. It was forwarded to Tim Snedden for further consideration at the upcoming Auckland Zephyr Owners' Assn meeting.

New Rules:

R Ebert sought feedback on two proposed new rules;

Gooseneck: *The boom gooseneck may be fixed or sliding type. The vertical swivel axis of the gooseneck shall not be more than 65 mm from the aft face of the mast.* The merits of "set back" goosenecks were debated, with the meeting recognising that these had been tried in the class in the past, with varying success. The above rule would effectively "grandfather" existing goosenecks and limit further experimentation. It would be submitted for six signatures

and put up for passing according to the Class Rules.

Compass: *Compasses are permitted. Devices capable of receiving satellite navigation signals are not permitted.* It was recognised that digital compasses with a range of functions, aimed at assisting tactical decision making, were already in use in the class. Experience suggested the tactical decision making features were of limited use in Zephyr sailing, and difficult to restrict. The prime aim of this rule is therefore to ban the use of devices capable of receiving satellite navigation signals. This rule would be submitted for six signatures and put up for passing according to the Class Rules.

Building Report: No new issues. The Auckland Traditional Boat Building School has proved a reliable supplier, but we keep a watching brief on the hull building environment.

Sail Report: Tim Snedden relayed Steve Pyatt's advocacy for persisting with the Velcro sail batten ties, suggesting they made removing battens and adjusting their tension easier. Initial problems seemed to be subsiding so this method will remain the standard on new sails. Those wanting traditional ties would have to pay for the alteration.

Sail Battens: Doyles had indicated an increase in the price of battens. A Aitken indicate the price to members would be unchanged.

National Championship 2009. Naval Point Yacht Club had agreed to host the Champs on Lyttelton Harbour. Ross May had agreed to be Race Officer. Good liason with Naval Point had been established and all arrangements were in hand. Secure overnight storage for boats would be available. Notice of Race had been submitted to YNZ. Applications to Pub Charities are planned, and a budget awaited. Likely entry fee around \$60, based on 35 boats. Likely interest from AKL, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington and locally, was canvassed. AKL looking at a container.

Mast Construction: A Aitken outlined recent concerns with the quality of masts from Northland Spars – mostly related to the alignment of the mast track. It was thought Sparloft Industries in AKL may be an alternative supplier, but this proved not to be the case. Tapered alloy masts appear to be a niche product, with few suppliers. At the moment we have no options other than Northland Spars, so an order for 4 masts has been placed. It was noted that Barry Saunders, previous owner of Bay of Island Spars, subsequently an employee of the new business, has now left. A Holland reported that Fosters continued to manufacture tapered alloy Moth masts of a similar (but smaller) diameter.

Worser Bay National Championships 2011: A Aitken tabled a letter from Worser Bay Boating Club, expressing interest in the 2011 Nationals. The meeting noted their interest and that it would be outside the normal North/South rotation. R Ebert to write to Worser Bay acknowledging their interest and outlining the issues.

Worser Bay Measurer: A Sunburst measurer is proposed. ZOA member preferred.

Centrecase Modification: W Beere inquired if this had been actioned. A Aitken indicated that it had been.

Tauranga Nationals, 2010: The informal interest from Tauranga in the 2010 Nationals was noted by the meeting. Members expresses reservations about the suitability of Tauranga.

Members success. Sam Meech (Youth Worlds), Grant Beck (Beijing Olympic involvement) Des Townson (MNZM) were noted. R Ebert to write offering congratulations.

Meeting Closed 2105 hrs.

Omitted Item: The ZOA was granted Charities Commission registration during the year.

Zephyr National Championships 2010
Tauranga Yacht Club
Thurs 21st Jan to Sun 24th 2010
Notice of Race
Entry Form
on the web site.