

ZOA Sailors' Forum meeting at QCYC, 3-Feb-20 5:00pm

Steve Pyatt (SP) chaired the meeting and introduced the purpose which is to provide sailors' feedback to the ZOA Executive Committee on issues of interest to Zephyr sailors. He noted that some key members of the executive were not at the Nationals but had reports to present from them.

John Kliffen took notes to provide a record of the discussion.

Alex Aitken – Patron

- Alex outlined the class is still strong with approx. 130 registered members, 23 in Tauranga/Hamilton, 49 in Auckland, 32 in Wellington, 21 in Christchurch and a few others elsewhere around NZ.
- Rob Ebert wishes to retire as ZOA secretary at the next AGM. Alex recommended that the ZOA committee should prepare a job description for the role which he expected would require 5-6 hours of work per week.
- Alex briefly discussed Peter Busfield's resignation from the role as ZOA President and his email correspondence with Peter that indicated Peter still wishes to support ZOA and participate as a sailor, and potentially one day may again be available for further service to ZOA.

ZOA Website

- Steve Pyatt (SP) thanked Cathryn Bridges for her work in further developing the ZOA website.

Recent Changes to Zephyr Class Rules

- SP asked if there was any feedback on the outcome of the votes and recent changes to the class rules.
- There was no comment from the floor.

Appointment of new ZOA Class President

- SP outlined that the ZOA committee was looking for a new Class President to be co-opted now and formally voted as President at a Special General Meeting sometime in March.
- SP advised that Matt Mitchell had offered to be ZOA President.
- There were no other nominations from the floor or objections.
- Matt Mitchell briefly spoke and stated that he wished to carry on the awesome work that people have put into the class, and there was general support from the floor.

Recruitment for a new ZOA Class Secretary

- Following Rob Ebert's intention to resign as class secretary, ZOA committee is seeking nominations for a new class secretary and is keen to hear from anyone who may be available for the role.
- SP advised that Brian Peet, who was not present at the meeting, has previously discussed the role with him and indicated he could take on the role, although he would need a transition period and support from Rob to get up to speed in the role around AGM time.
- There were no other nominations for the role.

Trading Statement: new Fibreglass Hull

- Unfortunately Class Treasurer Tony Millar was not attending this national regatta, so SP presented some key points from Tony's trading report:
- New hull production: Mackay have provided a price for a new full GRP fibreglass hull as \$11,500 incl GST.
- Tony will prepare a paper for the Exec to approve the Capital Expenditure of \$20,000 to modify the current hull mould and make a new deck plug.
- The target for the first completed hulls is May-20
- 5 enquiries have been received so far.

Fibre-glass deck mould discussion

- Tim Snedden expressed concerns over the \$20k cost to build a fibreglass deck mould and also has concerns over the viability of whether a wooden deck can be included as an option.
- Cathryn Bridges also asked if the existing fibreglass hull mould would be re-used or if this needed to be modified for the full-fibreglass option.
- Don Le Page and Murray Hay raised the concern that the proposed cost of \$11.5k was very high and reminded ZOA that the 2019 AGM discussion suggested that it could obtain three proposals for this work before finalising any agreement with a boat builder such as Mackays.
- Matt Mitchell clarified that a new deck mould is required and this is more complex and expensive to prepare than the original hull mould. The original hull mould will also need to be modified slightly for the all/nearly-all fibreglass construction.
- Matt supported Mackay as the best option for producing quality hulls, but reassured the forum that 3 proposals would be sought by the ZOA committee.
- Chris Bridges asked for confirmation that both fibreglass and wooden deck options will be available to purchase, which was confirmed by Matt M, although there may be a price difference in total end price for the wooden deck option.

General Discussion

1 turn vs 2 turn penalty

- Following the lively discussion at the regatta briefing, SP introduced the background to why a single penalty turn has previously been included in Zephyr national regatta SI, which has been to encourage sailors to take the 1 turn penalty, rather than consider the risk of the outcome from a protest hearing since a 2 turn penalty can be more difficult to complete, especially in high wind conditions.
- Tim Snedden recommended that the ZOA guideline of national contests should include a recommendation on the number of penalty turns required for Zephyr national contests (which it already does).
- SP pointed out that while the YNZ guideline prescribes 2 penalty turns for most infringements, it also allows variations to this to be included in the Sailing Instructions (under rule 44.1)
- Don Le Page suggested a code flag could be used to indicate if 1 turn or 2 turns are required depending on conditions.
- Chris Hargreaves raised the point about what is the culture of the class? Why don't people just take the 2 turns?

- SP referred to rules 3 and 44.1 i.e. that we take penalties if we know we are wrong, but marginal interpretations or arguable situations are referred to the protest committee, which we try to avoid as much as possible.
- Llew Viljoen suggested a vote is needed to show the general view of the forum:
- 27 voted for 1 turn,
- 9 voted for 2 turns.

Electronic devices

- SP introduced the point that sailors are starting to use Fit-bit watches and Garmin watches that support GPS live tracking applications, and reminded the forum that the current class rules do not permit the use of such digital aids.
- Cathryn Bridges discussed that the watches can work as start-watches and that trackers are becoming more commonly used at major events. She supported using digital tracker devices provided they did not provide any real-time aid on the water to sailors involved in racing.
- Don Le Page pointed out that these devices can be used for other purposes and that they should not be used by competitors. Should not be used to provide distance to start-line etc.
- Tim Snedden was also concerned that this could open up many other electronic device issues, so did not support it at this time.
- SP pointed out that any member can put forward a proposed rule change that is supported with 6 member signatures, for a full membership vote.
- To gauge a general view from the sailor's forum: 10 indicated support for considering a new electronic device rule, the rest (approx. 25) voted against a change to existing device rules.

2021 National Championships

- The next nationals will be hosted within the North Region and is currently proposed to be held at the Manly Sailing Club from 16-19 April 2021 (after the America's Cup event)
- Paul Pearson spoke that Manly SC was very keen to host the event and an organising committee has starting to do some early planning. Timing is 2 weeks after Easter (2-5 April)
- There was general support from the forum for the proposed location and date.

North Island Championships

- Alastair Campbell raised the point that Lake Taupo Yacht Club were changing the date of their centre-board regatta (to 5 & 6 December 2020), which has previously been used by ZOA for the North Island Zephyr championship regatta and usually scheduled for the 2nd last weekend of November.
- Alastair proposed that ZOA should also consider Napier Sailing Club which runs a Summer Regatta for centre-board classes over the last weekend of November.
- SP mentioned that previously some Auckland based Zephyr sailors have not supported Napier due to extra travel time/distance.
- There were no other comments from the sailors' forum for ZOA to not consider Napier, so it was concluded that the ZOA committee should now consider Napier as an option for the next Zephyr NI event.

Thanks to QCYC

- Craig Moss thanked QCYC for running the event which was supported by the forum with general applause.

Sailor Profiles

- Cathryn Bridges thanked everyone who provided photos and sailor profiles that she has uploaded to the ZOA website.
- There was general sailor applause and appreciation to thank Cathryn for her work on the ZOA website.

End of meeting

- Approx. 6pm