

NZRYS President's Report 2013

Membership

We had a high point of membership a few years ago when the number was in the high 20s. Currently it is just over half that. But the numbers at the pond is still quite steady averaging a dozen or more on most race days.

In past years we have had a number of new members start with us and then fade away after just a few days racing.

We probably need to recruit more new members over the summer. This can be done by letting casual visitors to the pond try out with the club boat, or my old 01.

Club equipment

Earlier this year I had restored and remodelled the club tug back into working condition after it had been drowned. I had found a RC launch at the pond and after a few months in the Police Lost&Found it was returned to me. The battery from this was put into the tug to complete it.

Geoff Atkinson donated his hand built 'Toot' tug to the club and this is much more powerful than the 'Vac-u-boat.com' tug. Geoff had previously also donated the chart board and the timers. I bring Toot to the pond most days and it has been used for rescuing disabled Seawinds as well as chasing them.

The Club Boat has not been available for some time, I am bringing my old 01 to the pond as a substitute. The keel insert failed and the hull has cracked. As the keel cannot be removed it will require some difficult repairs and I haven't completed these.

John Perkin donated his Seawind. This also needs similar keel repairs which I hope to continue with soon. Again the keel cannot be removed which makes repairs more difficult.

Seawind discontinued, or not

Kyosho had not restarted production of the Seawind after the tsunami and their web site removed the Seawind from the catalogue. It was apparent that the Carbon Fibre edition had been cancelled, it was only manufactured for a short time each year anyway. The concern was that the ABS Seawind may also not be put back into production. Letters to Kyosho, and the replies, seemed to give hope that there would be Seawinds in the future.

Then Kyosho announced a new ReadyKit Seawind that will pre-painted and assembled. The pricing of this, based on announced prices in USA, will be very competitive. Stocks are still awaited. I can, however, see a problem with racing several boats that are painted the same.

The State of the Ponds

This year the ponds have been cleaner with less weed and less silt rising from the depths than there has been in previous years. Even with the fountains out of action the incremental changing of the water each tide is keeping the water salty and preventing stagnation. The reduction in weed over the last few years has meant that there is less rotting dead weed in the silt with consequent benefits in appearance and smell.

The ponds at Onepoto are scheduled to be dredged during the coming year and this may take several months.

Alternate sailing venues

We need to determine alternate ponds to sail at during the dredging. Some have already been proposed: Onehunga Lagoon; Orakei Basin; Quarry Lake; Westhaven; Peter Wilcox's Warkworth fish ponds.

Each will need to be evaluated. For most of these we will need to lay out and recover sailing marks. This will require more members to be involved in this work. It may be necessary to use a dinghy or canoe which would also be useful for recovering boats that have gone out of control. Alternately, there may be a way of using the tug to tow the bouys out while an attached rope could be used to recover them.

Richard Plinston
NZRYS President 2007-2013.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

As the president has mentioned membership is down somewhat on previous years. However income from race day entry fees is an important additional source of income and helps to keep the club reasonably solvent. The re-sale of parts also helps the bottom line.

Peter Andrews