

## **Pohara Boat Club**

### **Commodore's Annual Report, 2018**

It is my pleasure to present my second annual report as Commodore of the Pohara Boat Club.

2018 has been a year of further consolidation following last year's re-grouping, but also a year marked by exciting new initiatives made possible by stability in the membership of the enthusiastic committee, various fundraising initiatives, and the excellent financial management of the treasurer, Paul Bastin.

The highlight of the year has been the purchase of the first 3 of a proposed fleet of 6 O'pen BIC sailing dinghies<sup>1</sup>, to provide junior sailors with a progression from the existing fleet of Optimist sailing dinghies.

The NZ class association says about the O'pen BIC:

*The O'pen BIC, with its modern and powerful rig, is a fast boat, quick to respond, self-bailing, and is fitted by the best marine hardware manufacturers... The O'pen BIC is THE link between the Optimist generation and the new generation of sailing dinghies.*

*Launched in 2006, the O'pen BIC has already convinced more than 7000 young sailors around the world. They love the fun they can get out of it, its capacity to react fast and its prowess. An ISAF international class is also very active for those who enjoy competitive racing.*

The O'pen BIC dinghy is promoted in NZ by the Russell Coutts Sailing Foundation, and the class is rapidly gaining popularity as a youth sailing class for advancement of skills beyond the Optimist dinghy. O'pen BIC class dinghies have been purchased by the Nelson Yacht Club, and the acquisition of a fleet of O'pen BIC dinghies by the Pohara Boat Club will provide the opportunity for developing sailing skills above the basic level, and for exhilarating and competitive racing between young sailors in the two clubs, and nationally.

The purchase of the first 3 dinghies has been made possible through in-house fundraising efforts, bequests and donations. We expect that funding for a 4th dinghy can be confirmed in the near future. Further fundraising and grant applications for the final 2 boats are under way. We expect to have all 6 O'pen BIC dinghies on the water by the commencement of the 2018/19 summer sailing season.

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<sup>1</sup> see: <http://openbic.org.nz> and <https://world.bicsport.com/open-bic.html>

With the acquisition of these new dinghies, the challenge we face is in encouraging younger sailors to progress their skills from basic level taught at Level 1, to the Level 2 skills necessary to sail the new dinghies. Parents of kids who have completed Level 1 are urged to encourage younger sailors to take up opportunity to advance to Level 2, and eventually participate in competitive inter-club sailing in the O'pen BIC dinghies.

Potential youth sailors of Golden Bay have also benefitted from a further visit from the Volvo/Yachting NZ Have a Go program. We need to find ways to turn these introductory sailing experiences into lasting longer term commitments to sailing. Hopefully the attraction of the O'pen BIC boats will assist in encouraging kids whom have experienced the 'Have a Go' program to take up sailing on a more regular basis.

Mark Laycock continues his excellent work in organising Level 1 and level 2 sailing courses and junior sailing instruction. The addition of the O'pen BIC dinghies to our fleet will place significant demands on Mark and those whom assist him with the Learn to Sail programs, so we welcome any PBC members with sailing knowledge and experience to become involved in assisting Mark run our junior sailing courses.

Our keel boat fleet is more active in cruising than racing, but the club has once again hosted coastal keel boat races from Tasman Bay Cruising Club (Nelson to Tarakohe) and Waikawa Boating Club (Waikawa/Queen Charlotte Sound to Tarakohe). Unfortunately, this year both of these races have been marred by poor weather conditions, resulting in lower than expected fleets and compromised races due to inadequate wind conditions. In response to the difficulties of running these races, the Tasman Cruising Club have advised that next year they will no longer run a race to Tarakohe as part of the Nelson Regatta. The Tasman Cruising Club Nelson to Tarakohe race will continue, as too will the Waikawa to Tarakohe race. However, the loss of one race event to Tarakohe, and dwindling fleets in the remaining two races, is cause for concern. In the interest of building the race fleet and 'getting some skin in the game', we encourage PBC keel boat owners to give serious consideration to entering one or other of the coastal races to Tarakohe next year. Our aim is to have at least one PBC keeler represented in each race - and ideally, two or three. Both races can be sailed short-handed, so all that is needed is a skipper and one crew member.

Regrettably we continue to experience ongoing delays in the consenting of the club moorings at Tata Islands, Taupo Point, and Mutton Cove. All three moorings have been inspected and upgraded with new components where necessary. The moorings are

technically sound and are fit to use, but formal consents are yet to be issued due to unsatisfactory delays in the process. The club is very grateful to the various members who made generous donations towards the costs of inspecting and upgrading these moorings. While we have responded to criticisms of the weight of the moorings and the dimensions of the mooring lines, we acknowledge that a 'one size fits all' solution will present problems to owners of smaller vessels. We suggest that boat owners still experiencing difficulties using these moorings equip their boats with a mooring bridle to avoid the need to lift the mooring lines on board their vessel.

Last year in my report I referred to ongoing problems in our relationship with TDC staff responsible for the administration and management of Port Tarakohe. While I am optimistic that this situation has improved with the appointment of new staff, there remains considerable discontent with aspects of port management, in particular recent significant increases in mooring fees, and the general state of the port environs and facilities for boat owners. The Tarakohe Marina Association has made representations to TDC on behalf of all marina users, expressing discontent over recent fee increases, particularly given the sub-standard level of the facility. As yet there has been no progress on renewal of lease, as mentioned in last years Commodore's report, however we anticipate that personnel changes at TDC will make this less of an issue than originally expected.

Interest in waka ama continues to grow, and this is reflected in growing membership of waka ama enthusiasts in the Pohara Boat Club. We have benefitted from the enthusiastic involvement of Steve du Feu as a general member of the PBC committee. Steve's involvement has resulted in a significant increase in waka ama membership of our club, and we look forward to the increased involvement of waka ama crews in the wider activities of the PBC. I would like to acknowledge the fine work that waka ama members have done in landscape maintenance and development of the wider club environs.

Our O'pen BIC fund raising activities kicked off last summer with a very successful fishing competition organised largely by Amy Ashford. The competition was well supported by sponsorship from local and Nelson businesses, and the success of the occasion has lead to a decision to make the fishing competition an annual event. Keep an eye on the club newsletter for details of next January's competition.

Our social activities, in particular the Sunday night dinners, continue to be the glue that binds the club together, and Amy Ashford and her team of kitchen, bar and wait staff

perform a tireless and very capable role in this respect. I would also like to acknowledge the family members of the committee whom also pitch in on a regular basis to help out in the bar and the kitchen. The club facilities have been popular for weddings and other functions, and we are now the regular meeting venue for the Golden Bay Lions Club. Our Club manager, Graham Ashford continues to maintain a good relationship with the NZ Motor Caravan Association, and this relationship has had significant benefits for our fundraising activities.

The level of use of the club's building and facilities inevitably leads to wear and tear and a constant need for improvements to the facilities to maintain the premises at an acceptable (and legal) standard for hire and general use. While we have highlighted the fundraising efforts for the O'pen BIC dinghies, there are ongoing maintenance, plant and equipment costs that must be met also, and these responsibilities will continue long after the purchase of our new sailing fleet.

This issue leads to my concluding comments; to thank all members of the committee - Amy, Graham (Ash), Kevin, Mark, Paul, Steve and Suzy - for their tireless efforts on behalf of the club. We are functioning well as a committee, and I am pleased that for another year, all members are willing to serve on the committee again. However, for two years now we have operated below strength as a committee, and so I would encourage anyone who has at any time considered putting their hand up to join the crew, to do so.

On Saturday 8 June I shall be attending the Yachting NZ Commodores Conference at the Bucklands Beach Boat Club in Auckland. This will be an excellent opportunity for networking with the commodores and managers of other yacht clubs around NZ. I am hopeful that the occasion will provide some useful insights and ideas that will help to continue to build the Pohara Boat Club from strength to strength.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Steven', written in a cursive style.

Mike Steven  
Commodore  
Pohara Boat Club  
Friday, 1 June 2018