

# Heretaunga Boating Club (Inc.)

## Commodore's Report 2023-24



### Membership

Our membership numbers, particularly those for our juniors, continue to grow steadily. This is largely off the back of a fantastic sailing season in 2022-23, and our well-planned junior programme. The challenge now, with the difficult weather continuing through to March, is how we sustain this interest.

**Table 1: HBC membership numbers for the last ten years**

	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15
Senior	25	25	24	26	26	26	28	26	24	18
Junior	37	32	28	22	25	25	25	28	25	26
Intermediate	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3
Associate	9	6	8	9	3	4	6	5	8	8
Life	10	9	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>

**Table 2: HBC membership by age**

0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	70+
2	36	2	3	14	7	8	9

### Funding

Increases in costs well beyond inflation rates remains an ongoing concern. Certainly, any sustainable increase in subscription income would be insufficient to cover increases such as the 138% increase in our insurance costs. We have, however, successfully increased our income by making more use of our main asset – the clubrooms; and by obtaining support from funding organisations with venues in our area. This grant income (>\$34k) allows us to not only undertake much needed upgrades, in this last year it has also assisted with our insurance costs. Two other applications are currently in the pipeline – one for smart screen as a training aid, and one for the replacement of the HBC2 boat trailer. While success in this area is in part a result of the quality of our applications, it is also dependent on the income available from venues in the area. For example, we often receive either less than the amount sought, or need to submit applications to a second funder. As members we can do our bit by supporting our local venues.

**Table 3: Funding applications**

Funding organisation	Funded	Amount	Local venues
Pub Charity Limited	Boatshed door replacement	\$1945	The Empire, The Angus Inn Hotel, BJ's
Kiwi Gaming	2 Optimists	\$6500	Horse & Hound
NZ Community Trust	HBC2 motor replacement	\$11066	Cutlers
Kiwi Gaming	Contribution to insurance costs	\$3988	Horse & Hound
Pub Charity Limited	50 new chairs	\$4348	The Empire, The Angus Inn Hotel, BJ's
NZ Community Trust	HBC1 – replace collar & bladders	\$6957	Cutlers
Lion Foundation	Contribution to insurance costs	\$1000*	Victoria Tavern
One Foundation	Smart screen	\$983.47*	Petone Sports Café, Bellevue Gardens Hotel, Roadhouse Bar & Grill, Eddy's Cafe & Bar, Palliser Hotel, The Big Chill, Olympic Hotel

\* Approved in 2024-25 financial period

## Sailing

Despite our optimism the weather failed to co-operate. Still, we had our successes. One benefit of our successful junior programme is the number of juniors moving into racing. The highlight this year being the number of Starling sailors moving into Lasers and the open class. This class is not only providing some of our most exciting racing, it also offers the possibility that we will retain these sailors into their 20s.

A second highlight was the turnout and support for the regatta, with 40 boats entered, including 10 from other clubs. A big thanks to Alex Smith who gave up his own racing to take on the challenge of being race officer. Alex held his nerve when the weather wasn't co-operative, and managed to get two races completed. As I've previously said the regatta continues to be an important part of our racing calendar as it gives us all the opportunity to learn. For the juniors new to racing it's learning about registering, the importance of listening in the briefings, and sailing with the senior classes. For the rest it provides the opportunity to develop our race and event management skills, and a chance for us all to get together after sailing. While we don't always get everything right, we do learn from it. The main takeaway this year was the importance of including our newest junior parents in briefings both before and on regatta day so that they know what to expect.

Nor could we run the regatta without the support of our junior parents. This year Matt Stenbo provided the Committee boat, new LTS dad Kaush Samarasekera did a fantastic job as the beachmaster, Jo and Steve Holm, Becky White and Kevin Moar crewed on the rescue and committee boats for the first time and Dave and Anna Vaughn made sure we were well fed. Nor could we run the regatta without the extra boats provided and crewed by Haydn Braddock and Kendra Boswell, and the support from our older hands.

We also ran two have-a-go days for St Bernards College. These went reasonably well in the gusty conditions but proved very resource intensive given the time to complete the lengthy risk assessment, and the need for two rescue boats, rescue boat crews, beachmaster, me in charge, and the two junior coaches required to support each session. Thanks to Simon Coubrough for setting this up and the support from Ray Flaws, Ian Blair, Malina Stuart, and our coaches Xavier Blythen, Kendra Boswell, Harry and Ben Coubrough.

Thanks again this year to John Dement for managing senior racing - and the maintenance of all our rescue boats; Pam Blair, Ray Flaws our regular supporters in the tower and start boat; our parent supporters particularly Peter Affleck and Malina Stuart, and to all our sailors who gave up their racing to ensure our safety boats were fully crewed.

**Table 3:** Summary of HBC racing for 2023-24

Date	Opti	Starling	Sunburst	Open	Races	Wind	Knots
28.10.23		5	2	8	2	SSW-SW	5-11
4.11.23		5	2	3	2	NW	13-15
11.11.23		6	3	7	2	W-NNW	5-11
18.11.23		5	4	5	2	SSW	8-12
2.12.23		5	2	0	2	N	5-13.5
10.02.24	18*	8	6	8	2	N	10-21
2.03.24		2	0	3	2	N	3-19
16.03.04		3	2	3	2	SSW-WNW	2-11.5
6.04.24		3	2	6	2	SSW	10-17
13.04.24		4	3	4	1	NE	2-10
20.04.24		3	4	4	1	S-W	2.5-6
*Includes 10 Optimist A and 8 Rainbow fleet. Only one started.							

### Adult learn-to-sail

This year saw five in adult learn-to-sail and Dave Tattersfield continue to generously provide his time and encouragement, with help from John Dement and Peter Affleck. With fewer sunbursts available the Fevas came into their own. As with previous seasons we continue to face the challenge of how to move our adult learn-to-sail sailors into racing – either in their own boats or by teaming up with other members.

### **Junior sailing**

As the membership numbers indicate our junior fleet continues to build. It certainly looks impressive from the sidelines – on at least three weekends we had 25-26 boats (including adult LTS) out on Saturday mornings, and a need to have additional rescue boat support. Mid-week the numbers varied with two to seven boats training on Wednesdays, and two to five Starlings regularly training with Keith on Thursdays and racing on Saturday afternoons.

The success of this is largely due to the planning of our Junior Co-ordinators, the contributions of our lead coaches (Alex Smith, Pat Poland and Keith Fraser), the support of other coaches (Kendra Boswell, Xavier Blythen, Ben and Harris Coubrough, Morgan McKeown and James Vaughn) and the regular parent support provided by those including Becky White, Haydn Braddock, Geoff Barnes, and Malina Stuart.

We are now at a point that we need to look at how we can maintain our momentum. After four successful seasons our Junior Co-ordinators Matt Poland and Simon Coubrough are stepping down. We are also considering how we can more evenly reward our junior coaches, and what we can do to provide sailing for those that don't want to race. Critically we need to fill the two junior co-ordinator roles. Sailing knowledge while beneficial is not essential as we have junior coaches and parents who can provide technical support. Simon has also undertaken to remain involved and mentor the new co-ordinators through to Christmas. What our co-ordinators need most is commitment, availability and good organising and communication skills.

We will also need our junior parents, to take more active roles, either regularly or on a rostered basis. This will either be in a rescue boat, as beach master, or running a separate sailing session, possibly on Sunday mornings, for those juniors not wanting to race.

Other highlights: For the juniors the harbour sail on the keelers – always impressive in the photos with nine keelers plus our centreboards rafted up. A big thanks to Merewyn Groom and all the Lowry Bay boat owners. For the club our representation at other events: 12 sailors and coaches at Opti sail at Titahi Bay, 23 sailors at the Muritai junior regatta, four boats at the Inter-island regatta in Picton, and six HBC/St James' boats sailing in the Sunburst nationals. Congratulations to Pat Poland finishing 31<sup>st</sup> in a fleet of 75 at the Starling nationals, to Pat Poland and Harris Coubrough, for their fifth place overall in the Sunburst nationals, and to Morgan McKeown and Neve Groom who were first in the Sunburst non-spinnaker class.

Club results: Congratulations to Kavya Samarasekera our most improved novice; Bailey Rollo our most improved junior; Oscar Wilkie winner of the Optimist B championship; Lucas Holm winner of the Optimist A championship; Thomas Affleck recipient of our junior club spirit award; Aurora McKeown the most improved Starling; and Pat Poland winner of the Starling championship.

### **Support boat crewing and training**

For a number of years now we have relied on Ray Flaws to start our races on the water and be our main rescue boat driver. We also look to our members to volunteer so that we can have at least two in each boat. In the afternoons this usually means those who normally race giving up their sailing. We are also fortunate that Malina Stuart is able to help out most days. In the mornings it's different. With three boats needed our club coaches usually drive the boats with support required from our junior parents. This means that we need to ensure training is available to a large number of parents. We normally try and run this early in the season, however even if the weather co-operates it doesn't always work for the parents of the learn-to-sail intake.

With the planned October training blown out, and our adult LTS instructors not available in February, we tried something different. While very much spur of the moment, we provided both rescue boat and sail training for two of our keen adult LTS. This led to a training enquiry from one of our juniors, and ended with Ray Flaws providing hands on training for Lucas Holm and his mum Jo during Saturday racing. This looks like a formula that might work, particularly as it is less weather dependent. Potential trainees could volunteer for a date that suits, get hands on training on the support boats, and at the same time get an introduction on how to start races.

Training for new parents: One thing that was noticeable this year was the difficulty getting volunteers to take on roles such as beachmaster, or to fill other roles during the regatta, yet when it came to the club clean up at the end of the season, we were not short of support from our newest parents. This suggests that we need to look at how we build the confidence of our new LTS parents. One option being considered is running rescue boat training at the same time as the initial LTS course.

### **Other training opportunities**

Another benefit of the junior programme is the number of juniors undertaking the club coaching course and going on to assist our more experienced coaches. Not only do we gain a good supply of young coaches we increase the likelihood that our juniors will continue sailing. This last season James Vaughn qualified and already we have four keen to complete the next course. These courses are not limited to juniors, our junior co-ordinators also completed the course when they were fairly new to the role. There are also online courses run by YNZ and Coastguard. Certainly, participants and the club would benefit if we increased our participation in race management courses (race officer and race results/Sailwave courses), and safety related courses such as first aid, marine radio use (Marine VHF Certificate), and general boating (Boatmaster).

### **Sailing assets**

Rescue boats: Improvements this last year included the replacement and upgrade of the motor and controls to HBC2. Also underway is the much needed replacement of the collar and bladders to HBC1. Our next priority is the replacement of the trailer to HBC2. This is essential if we are to support other events in the region.

Optimists: Four of the 12 club boats have now been replaced. In the next season we will be looking at funding to replace at least two preferably four more, minor sail repairs, and numbers for the sails and boats.

Fevas: The Fevas remain of great value, providing a more challenging sail for the juniors and adult learnt-to-sail sailors, and a useful interim option for those unsure of what class to move on to. In this next period we will be looking at genoa replacement for both boats.

## **Clubrooms**

### **Asset Planning**

No progress has been made either with our asset management planning or with further discussions with Petone Rowing Club (PRC). Whether the recent demand for longer time frames for remediation of earthquake-prone buildings will affect PRC's rebuild is not known. As things presently stand the initiative remains with PRC. Given we are not under any pressure I expect that it would be prudent to hold any decisions on rebuilding until the local authority strategy re sea-level rise is known.

### **Insurance**

The club's insurances are arranged through Aon. Two separate policies are held. One covers building insurance, and is needed to comply with our lease. The other covers public liability and our boating cover. As in previous years we hold the minimum cover required for the building (the indemnity value), no content insurance, no business continuity insurance, only limited cover for our support boats, and no cover for all other boats. The intent, in the event of significant loss, is to allow us to continue sailing as a club, albeit in temporary accommodation, and to enable us to start future planning.

In this last year our insurance costs increased significantly (from \$6,082 to \$14,517). A large part of this was the cost of the building valuation (now valued at \$1,430,400), and the subsequent increase in the minimum amount of building insurance we are required to hold (\$452,000 up from \$210,000). Our expectation is that these costs will again increase and we will be faced with revaluation costs on a periodic basis. These costs are not sustainable. Options explored include seeking grant funding to assist with meeting these costs, and the possibility of removing the insurance requirement from the lease.

In October we successfully applied for grant funding from Kiwi Gaming receiving. More recently we applied for a \$5000 contribution to our 2024/25 insurance costs, receiving \$1000. We have also asked Aon for six monthly invoicing to allow us to apply for further grant funding.

### Maintenance

Building works completed this last season included the installation of Wi-Fi to support the Webcam provided by PredictWind, the replacement of the boatshed roller door – funded by a grant from Pub Charity, electrical wiring safety improvements, and addressing leaks partly caused by rodents, and the failure of the Dux Quest pipework. Critical works in this next period will focus on replacement of the remaining original water pipework to reduce emergency call outs, and remedial work, particularly to the ceilings to reinstate fire ratings.

Other improvements completed include the replacement of the chairs – also funded by a grant from Pub Charity, and replacement of the older tables with donated tables able to be more easily moved and stored.

Other work to be considered in this next period includes internal and external painting, and the replacement of the lounge floor coverings.

### Clubhouse hire

This has been our most successful year for some time. We gained a new sponsor (CK&Co), a new regular weekly user (Taoist Tai Chi), and increased the number of community organisations using the clubrooms. Our expectation is that the CK&Co commitment will continue this coming year, and our relationship with Taoist Tai Chi, who use the clubrooms weekly on Wednesday evenings, will be long term. It's also pleasing to have groups such as Takiri Mai te Ata Whanau Ora Collective, who hold their quarterly meetings of the Lower Hutt Housing and Homelessness Network at the club, along with two faith-based groups, continue their support of the club. Going forward, finding a second regular user, would greatly assist with meeting our increasing insurance costs.

**Table 4:** Summary of clubhouse hire (\$ totals include GST)

	Low impact				Higher impact			
	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21
Sponsorship	4830	6900	6900	5175				
Sports events	300	300		440				
Regular hires	2070	750	100	1725				
Meetings	1500	480	480	240				
Planning days / Other	700	150		120				
Family party	300				300	300	480	240
Sports club events						300	480	720
Social club party					300			240
Club member events	75		80					

## Who does what

Our club works as well as it does because we have a large number of people prepared to take the lead on various aspects of the work. If you would like to take a more active role, either assisting one of the leads in the following table, or filling a gap please let us know.

**Table 5:** *Club roles – leads*

General			
Finance	Malina Stuart	Lease	Becky White
Health & Safety	Matt Stenbo	Trophies	Matt Stenbo
Insurance	Ruth Fletcher	Website	Jenny Mason
Sailing			
Programme	John Dement	Junior programme	Matt Poland, Simon Coubrough
Safety boats	John Dement	LTS coaching	Pat Poland
Fevas	Peter Affleck	SF coaching	Alex Smith
Laser	Shane Rempala	Starling coaching	Keith Fraser
Optimists		Adult LTS	Dave Tattersfield
Radios		Boat storage	Matt Poland
House			
Compliance	Shane Rempala, Peter Affleck	Maintenance	Shane Rempala, Peter Affleck
Club hires	Ruth Fletcher	Keys	Ruth Fletcher
PredictWind	Shane Rempala	Cleaning	

## A last word

I'm sure it won't be my last but I will be stepping down from the Commodore's role this year. I've accomplished some of what I'd hoped to. We have brought on a great team – a younger team - who are more than able to lead the club. We are well set up with our proposed new Constitution and documented bylaws and policies. We are starting to build capability – evident in the number of members who have completed the club coaching course; and we have made a start on asset planning and options that will help us meet the challenges from rising costs and sea level. We have also survived the decision not to run a bar, and as the membership numbers, and the turn-out at prize giving shows, we continue to build a welcoming family-oriented club.

While we have yet to build any depth to our race management capability, it has been satisfying to note the sailors completing their club coaching courses, and to see both Jenny Mason and Alex Smith take on the regatta race officer role. The next step is to encourage our more experienced club coaches to build on their skills.

My thanks particularly to all those who have supported me in these last six years: to Marty and Debbie Angliss who managed the reroofing project; to John Dement who has been a stalwart managing racing and all our sailing assets; to Jenny – my predecessor, who brings a wealth of club knowledge, in her roles as Treasurer, and IT support; and to Ray Flaws, Pam Blair and Graham Knight for their support on the rescue boat, in the tower and with the trophies. And to those – all newer to the club who have taken on roles: Simon and Matt who have so capably managed and built up the junior programme; Dave Tattersfield who generously supports adult LTS; Malina Stuart, our new Treasurer who is always prepared to take on any role; Shane Rempala, who although under pressure this last year, still worked on in the background, and with Peter Affleck ably managed our building work; and Matt Stenbo who has found his niche looking after the trophies. Each year we try to bring on new members to the Committee – some find the meeting times too difficult – but I'm always impressed with the work progressed without fan-fare. And lastly to all the members who contribute behind the scenes, who (almost) never fail to volunteer or take on a role when asked, and who support the club in any way they can.

Ruth Fletcher

## Committee 2023-24

<b>Patron</b>	Ron Bailey	<b>Treasurer</b>	Malina Stuart
<b>President</b>	Grahame Eathorne	<b>Committee</b>	Jenny Mason
<b>Commodore</b>	Ruth Fletcher		David Tattersfield
<b>Vice Commodore</b>	John Dement		Simon Coubrough
<b>Rear Commodore</b>	Shane Rempala		Matt Poland
<b>Secretary (Acting)</b>	Ruth Fletcher		Peter Affleck
			Becky White

## Trophies 2023-24

	<b>Class</b>	<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>Opening Day</b>	Optimist	Manning Shield	-
	Starling	Commodores Trophy	-
	Sunburst	Hunter Shield	-
	Open	OS Ryan Cup	-
<b>Regatta</b>	Opti Green	Epiglass Cup	-
	Optimist	Blythe Cup	Claire Bennett (MYC)
	Starling	Heretaunga Shield	Pat Poland
	Sunburst	Irex Cup	Paul & Nick Bronsnahan (PBC)
	Open	Merv Lee Memorial Shield	Aaran Judd (PBC)
	Open	McEwan Rose Bowl	-
<b>Committee Challenge</b>	Open	Committee Challenge Cup	-
<b>Championship</b>	Opti Green	Lees Cup	Oscar Wilkie
	Optimist	Bailey Cup	Lucas Holm
	Starling	Coles Trophy	Pat Poland
	Sunburst	Wilford Cup	Lucy & John Dement
	Open	Atkinson Dale Cup	Geoff Barnes
<b>Handicap Series 1</b>	Opti Green	Heretaunga Cup	Blake Braddock
	Optimist	Eathorne Cup	Lucas Holm
	Starling	Dan Fraser Cup	Steph Barnes
	Sunburst	Sango Cup	John & Lucy Dement
	Open	Eiffe Cup	Geoff Barnes
<b>Handicap Series 2</b>	Opti Green	Croft Cup	Lachie Mitchell
	Optimist	Pennington Cup	Lucas Holm
	Starling	We Tako Cup	Steph Barnes
	Sunburst	Thorndon Dinghy Cup	John & Lucy Dement
	Open	Heretaunga Trophy	Geoff Barnes
<b>Handicap Series 3</b>	Starling	Huntley Cup	Aurora McKeown
	Sunburst	Rum Ricki Cup	John Dement & Jenny Mason
	Open	Olga Harvey Cup	Xavier & Anthony Blythen
<b>Overall Handicap</b>	Starling	Rongomai Cup	Aurora McKeown
<b>Overall Handicap</b>	Sunburst	Rowe Wilson Memorial Cup	John & Lucy Dement
<b>Overall Handicap</b>	Open	Veterans Trophy	-
<b>Most improved novice</b>			Kavya Samarasekera
<b>Most promising sailor</b>			Pat Poland
<b>Most improved junior</b>		Hall Cup	Bailey Rollo
<b>Most improved starling</b>		Thessman Trophy	Aurora McKeown
<b>Most improved sunburst</b>		Les McLachlan Memorial Cup	Lucy Dement
<b>Most deserving crew</b>		Lewis Cup	-
<b>Best kept wooden boat</b>		Economic Cup	Matt Poland
<b>Club spirit - senior</b>		Greenfield Shield	Peter Affleck
<b>Club spirit - junior</b>			Thomas Affleck