

## **DURBAN RADIO BOAT CLUB**

### **NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024**

#### **COMMODORE – DAVE WISEMAN**

With the club picking up a couple of new members, most sectors are feeling we are on the up again. The scale sectors launch Jetty is another outstanding job by Bruce and his team and has certainly made a big improvement to the facility for that sector. There is talk of a portable jetty I heard and this will hopefully give more interest and challenge to the scale boys. Will be great to see a planned scale morning soon and try get a full turnout of all our scale boats hidden away in garages and storerooms.

Sail is really running on a high , as is power with really good turnouts on all scheduled days and these are good signs looking ahead. Time to maybe have the sectors schedule a “bring a buddy “ day and try fire up a few new players to add to our fields !

Look fwd to seeing you all soon on the water.

#### **DF95 - TIM PHILLIPS**

We are very pleased to confirm that the DF95 Regionals were a fantastic success, with 22 entries overall and Rob Gardener from Cape Town emerging as the champion! He was followed by Des Fairbank and then John Jorgenson. Congratulations, all, on your impressive performance!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to making this event possible. Special thanks to the ladies at the finish line for their diligent logging of positions, ensuring smooth operations. We also extend our gratitude to Pierre, our braai master, whose expertise was invaluable, and also to Joe Robbertse, who served as our race officer, he diligently guided us through the weekend's events.

There are many others who played a key role in the success of the regionals, and while we can't mention everyone by name, your efforts are truly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next event, watch this space!

#### **Nationals Cape Town**

We had 4 KZN sailors attending the DF95 Nationals at Theewaterskloof Dam in late September which again was a very well supported (32 entries) and organised event. Roy Gardener from Cape Town again won the event with our team positioned as follows: Bruce 6<sup>th</sup>, John Jorgensen 9<sup>th</sup>, Tim 14<sup>th</sup> and Chris Watkins 26<sup>th</sup>. Well done all.

Allocated a month

# Reigning champion Roy scoops regatta win

IT was a splendid weekend for radio-controlled boat enthusiasts when Durban hosted the KZN DF95 Regional Regatta at the Durban Radio Boats Club at the Blue Lagoon. Competitors travelled from across the country to participate and earn their colours.

At the end of the two-day competition, it was Capetonian Roy Gardener who reigned victorious. He is the current National Radio-Controlled Boats Champion and has represented the country in the global tournament.

Des Fairbank came second, followed by John Jorgensen, John Kerchar, Andrew Bosworth and Bruce Schnell who were all tied in third place.

Regatta organiser Bruce Schnell was impressed with the success of the two-day event. "Although the wind was a bit testing, the sailors did very well. We all enjoyed the affair," he said.

Gardner's reaction to his win indicated that the man has his eyes already set on global stages. But first, he will be partaking at the national championships in his hometown where he is confident of another triumph.

"I started sailing radio-controlled boats in 2016 and had a break after that. In 2019, I resumed and took part in the national championship where I came in third. Nothing could stop my drive as I came in second at the Witbank Nationals in 2021. My first national win was in Port Elizabeth in 2022, followed by another one last year at Midmar Dam. This makes me the current champion in the country," he enthused.

On how he manages to conquer the waters and become the envy of his rivals, Gardener said it is combination of talent, skill and strategy. "It is critical to set up strategic tactics. Experience comes in handy all the time. At the end of the day, passion is the main driver," he said.

He is excited by the camaraderie and networking formed during the regattas and hopes that younger folks will eventually buy into the sport. Also, he hopes that more sailing venues will be made available. The sport is currently dominated by older men. The oldest member, with multiple colours, was Norrie Taylor (89). He praised the warm hospitality of Durban people, as well as the 'ever-beautiful' weather.

Regatta organiser Bruce Schnell is pleased with the outcome.



The Durban wind may have threatened to blow the regatta away, but the skilled sailors came out on top.  
Photos: Wendy Sithole

## Growing sport

The DS95 boats are manufactured in China and imported, and the growing popularity of the sport has seen 204 boats being purchased since 2017.

Cape Town will play host to the international championships in 2026.



Man of the moment Roy Gardener.

## RC POWER

The 2024 powerboat club champs is slowly, or rather rapidly heading to an end.

We started in Feb and plan to finish in Nov.

10 rounds of racing with 8 to count.

Allocated a month

Stock Monohull: Luke Walters and Dieter Schauerte neck and neck in championship with Dieter 3 points ahead of luke. Will Sheriff a strong 3<sup>rd</sup> now.

Stock Cat: Dieter Schauerte and Lionel Oliver fighting for the win, with Andries in third at the moment.

Mod Mono: this one is very close with Rowan, Luke, Lionel hard at work to win this class.

The combined Mod Cat / F1 class is hotly contested by Hennie in the lead followed by Rowan and Luke Richards

Varying wind and water conditions have made this season's racing, with new competitors getting on top of their race boats and the course. See you at the races.



Allocated a month

## **RCL – TERRY FLYNN**

We have unfortunately been experiencing very low water levels in the Pond that continue to cause us to cancel RCLaser and other class sailing, the last sailing day that was cancelled was our ProLo Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September when we had to make use of a RC “pusher” tug to help free the stuck RCLs.

However, our class is alive and well and when we do sail, we have healthy fleets of up to 9 yachts. We still sail on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month and then every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday during the month.

We have a number of new owners who have all found good secondhand RCLs and are now enjoying RCL sailing. The last man to join us was Rob Ponsie, welcome!

We do often see the regulars at the top of the results, like Joe Robbertse, John Eales, John Quarmby, and recently Andrew Fletcher who we welcome back to KZN after an extended period in Gauteng.

It is also great to see the sailors that have more recently joined us and are now featuring in the top of the results on a regular basis. These include, Tim Phillips & Richard Wytrykowski

,,,and then of course there is the rest of us who are up there now and again but are there on a regular basis and make up an important part of the fleet to keep it active and vibrant and the “braais” on a Wednesday enjoyable.

Thank you, Peter Heathcote, Duncan Starke, Ian Gielink, Ron Duckworth & Neil Johnston.

Please forgive me if I have missed out anyone, or if you feel I have put you in the wrong group but as most of us know it is easy to do that at our age!!

Join the RCLaser fleet talk to me about a good secondhand boat.

**SCALE** A huge thank you to Bruce and team for the fantastic launch platform recently constructed, very much appreciated. Let's hope that this will encourage scale members to come back in force as was in the past.

Duncan Williams has kindly constructed a moveable Mini Harbor and protective barrier to protect boats, well done.





### **WEDNESDAY PRO LOAFERS - IAN GIELINK**

Things going well as usual, excellent sailing of RCL'S ,RG65'S and hopefully Scale will take off with the new launch platform. Then there is always an enjoyable braai and banter for afters.

Allocated a month



### **IOM – NORRIE TAYLOR**

There has not been much IOM class sailing at the Pond for some time. Over the past eighteen months a lot of scheduled IOM sailing was given to the DF95 class club members in preparation for the 2023 Global event and for the 2024 DF95 SA Nationals.

The IOM class, which is the only international RC class sailing in the country, looks forward to more development and more allocated time on the water in the future. At least 9 of club members own IOM's, however 1 allocated sailing day a month is not promoting the class.

Allocated a month

We have no problem with other classes joining us on the water.

The 2024 National IOM Championships take place in Witbank on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October. Witbank Yacht club is well known for great sailing conditions and excellent facilities which now include an upgraded launching and competitor's observation area.

There is a campsite, good ablutions together with an excellent Clubhouse with food available, which is good for promoting radio sailing.

Yours in sailing

Ian Gielink