

Commodore Report 2017

2017 was not one of our better years financially and we have felt the squeezing pressure on our economy, but having said that we had good competitions with fair entries compared to other clubs.

Ski boating as we know is a luxury sport and we are all feeling the pinch. To all our members who supported us through the year I thank you very much.

With the clubhouse being so close to the ocean it really puts financial strain on the club due to moisture and corrosion. All the electronics, cameras, tills, computers, printers etc generally only have a 3 year life span. So, maintenance this year was quite high.

On the fishing side thanks to Mark Brewitt for organising our Interclub and the Away Competitions that we attended, we did pretty well in the placings at these competitions. The club paid R42,400.00 entry fees to these interclub competitions which for R650.00 a year subs, our anglers get more than their money back.

To the anglers who represented Natal this year; well done to you all. You have kept our name high and we are still an angling club to be reckoned with.

All our boat owners and skippers did us proud in assisting us with their boats for the competitions, Interclub and Junior Interprovincial which were successful.

To Pieter Bodenstein, PJ Botha, Elmar Basson, Charles du Plessis, Chris Diedericks, Clinton Barclay, Faith Lategan, Richard Hartley, Des Rielander, Craig Bell-Roberts, Shaune McAuliff, Craig Treherne, Weasel Coetzee and Jason Palmer thank you.

Thank you to all our fellow ski boaters who always assist us Shaun Aspden (Fintastic), Angus Anderson (Ignoblis), Adrian Feher (Voicemail), Neil Coetzee (Kataza) and Rob Gemmel, (Half A Dozen).

If I have missed out anyone my sincere apologies. A big applause to all our skippers and boat owners who are unselfish with their time and boats to make Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club competitions the best; with lots of fish being caught thanks to our knowledgeable skippers. Mark will be holding workshops during the year to assist new anglers and juniors.

We are lucky again to have the honour of hosting the Gamefish Nationals in May and the Junior Nationals in July 2018. Our bonanza will be 4 – 7 July 2018 and once again we have the two 150hp Mercury motors as first prize.

A very big thank you to Leon and Wesley Uys from Mr Clean and GR5 for their generous sponsorships of R100,000.00 and R50,000.00 respectively. Also to our other loyal sponsors for their continued support and those who have committed their support for 2018 already.

Congratulations again to Bliksem in winning the Bonanza and for Lourens with that fine yellow fin Tuna of 40.9 kg.

To Charles du Plessis fishing in Sailfish (light tackle) Nationals and got a gold. Well done. Our club did well in all the interclubs, hope we can keep it going for the 2018 season.

On the home front to thank Dick Smith, Digby Smith, Pieter Bodenstein and Elmar Basson for their input in repairing and building an addition to the new south ramp.

To you and to all the members of the club, thank you that you are always available anytime and ready to assist the club when we need it.

I have over this year called on Piet Bodentein for the use of his back-actor to replace eroded sand at the club and he has stopped his work in favour of the club to send the back-actor. Also, Carl Gutzeit & PJ Botha assisted a lot with the Ramp. Thank you all from all our members. The South ramp is now up and running and works very well.

The club over the year also contributed to the gate guards in season and competitions when the base is closed to public cars; this makes it easier for boats and trailers around that time to move and park, therefore we ask you to please be patient, the base can only accommodate vessels that are towed by their towing vehicles.

The tower is now equipped with the VHF Radio on channel 10 and we ask you when you call in to tower. Tell them which radio you are on ("Shelly Control" "Footloose" on "VHF") or ("Shelly Control" "Footloose" on "29mg") "can we have permission to beach?"

The Committee has used the services of Natasha Caple from DYNAZIGN to look at how we can increase the size of the kitchen and ladies toilets and to enhance the clubhouse to make it more comfortable and user friendly as well as give us more room to re-do the bar. There is an attached drawing for your perusal and we welcome any comment regarding the alterations.

To my committee and Secretary Brenda thank you for all your hard work. A special thanks to Marietjie for all the assistance she gives the club and always being willing to help out.

The club staff, kitchen ladies and Bar staff. Victoria and her crew thank you. Special thanks to Gary and Clive for putting up with all the abuse they get from time to time.

May 2018 be the start of a good year and I wish all our members the best for Christmas and a super New Year.