

## **Training Survey & Review of Learn To Sail Program.**

As many of the regular sailors would know the Sailing Committee undertook a review of Sail Training at the Club during 2008-2009.

The ideas behind this review were based on several areas of interest to the Committee of Management.

1. Review the use of Club resources and effort of volunteers that went into the Learn to Sail programs, what were the long term benefits to the Club from running these programs, and how could we improve the outcomes.
2. There had been no provision of advanced formal training for current members for a number of years.

As a result of gathering information from many Club members via different methods, including one on one interviews, the training survey and group discussions; we have come up with a variety of recommendations. We hope these activities will enhance the growth of our Club through increased memberships of trained sailors, fairer sharing of workload amongst volunteers, develop the skills of our ongoing sailing fleet and at the same time provide a consistent and structured approach to training programs.

Some of these activities will be able to be implemented straight away, and others will take a season or two to get in place. Here is a highlight of some of the recommendation that will be implemented.

### **1. Retention of the Two 'Learn to Sail' programs a year.**

We will still be running two Learn to Sail programs a year but with some organisational modifications.

- Williamstown Sailing Club will apply to become a Yachting Australia Training Centre (YATC)
- The Sunday 'on the water' training program will be 9am to 1 pm.
- Structured rosters for sailing instructors/volunteers so load can be shared across the course.
- 2-3 new instructors to undertake instructors program through Yachting Victoria.
- Training will be free for any current Club members, or any participants who join the Club prior to the beginning of the course. All participants will pay administration charge for YATC. Preference for places in the course to members of Williamstown Sailing Club.
- Reduction in training cost for Junior non members to encourage junior trainees.
- Sponsorship program through local high school to train several juniors in November training programs.( funded from private businesses and individuals)
- Introduce into sailing calendar one Saturday race during training course that invites 'learn to sail' course participants to crew in a race on a Saturday.
- Investment in new training aides as required.
- Investment in new Pacers and reduction of the use of Mirrors in sail training

## **2. Ensuring new Trainees get into racing.**

The “Club 1” program will be enhanced and developed to encourage new members to move from the ‘learn to sail’ program to get into Saturday racing. The “ Club 1” program was trialled initially in 2008/09.

## **3. Training and Activities for Current members- whether experienced or new sailors.**

- Add different events to the sailing calendar to enhance opportunities for ongoing training for club members- buddy race, other match racing ideas. Intention is to support and encourage improvement in racing and competitive skills.
- Introduce regular rules training sessions once a month during the race briefings.
- Place on the Sailing Calendar several training events during the season for current club members, some Saturday mornings and possibly some Sunday sessions. These will be planned and structured in advance and will be specific skills based, possibly some class based.
- Long term activity-Development of more advanced training courses that may lead to YATC course accreditation.
- Actively encourage and support participation by club members to compete in state and national titles.
- Encourage more Club members to undertake training courses to assist in volunteer roles around the Club, eg Race Officer, Rescue Boat Drivers, Radio Operators, First Aid.

So hopefully you can see that through the variety of things mentioned we hope to achieve a number of aims. Firstly, we wish to build on the reputation and strength of our well respected Learn to Sail programs, but at the same time ensure that the effort put into those programs by many volunteers is of measurable benefit to the Club, via new active members. We need to share the burden of the volunteer responsibilities across our sailing program with more people trained to share the load - it takes a lot of people to get us racing out on the water each week. And for those who have spent too long at the “back of the fleet”, hopefully we can enhance your skills to get you more competitive and having a great time out their sailing.

So keep your eye out for this coming season’s sailing program, which will be out in late September. Some of the training activities for the season racing will be specified on the program, others may be a bit more ad hoc- but make sure you join in and get involved, it is your Club after all.

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WSC Sailing Committee.