



Victoria Nyanza Sailing Club

Annual General Meeting, 20 September 2013

Report of the Commodore

Dear members

Another successful and accident-free year of sailing at Kaazi has passed, and it's time to welcome next year's committee and prepare for another year of sailing. First of all, I'd like to just say a few words about the Club and some highlights from the last year.

The Committee

As always the Committee have done a tremendous job at keeping the Club running despite leading busy lives outside of Kaazi. The Club does not run by itself, and although the staff and George have really done a great job, there is still a lot of work undertaken by the Committee that goes on behind the scenes to make it look as though the Club does run by itself! The aging fleet, buildings and low membership continue to present challenges to the successful operations of the club.

During the year we said goodbye to committee members Rene, Jelmer, Kevin, Emma and their families who made tremendous contributions to the club, we are missing them already. In addition to their committee contribution, Jelmer and Rene added to the competitive spirit at the front of the fleet on the water and we hope to see all of you back for regular sailing at the club.

With these departures we welcomed new members who filled in, Tom Smith as sailing secretary and Bernard Broughton as treasurer. Emma and Rob continue to provide support from a distance in settling the accounts and keeping our finances in order so thanks to both of them for their ongoing commitment to Kaazi.

Of course it goes without saying that I wish to thank all other members of the Committee for their efforts in the last year and wish them all the best for the coming year. Gordon's hard work on the training program provides a tremendous benefit to the club both in terms of income and membership and so we all owe him a word of thanks.

Staff

Under George's direction, the staff have been doing a great job keeping the club in good shape. The atmosphere around the club is positive and friendly which creates a more inviting atmosphere for members and guests. George's main concerns when I discussed any issues with him focus on the condition of the club buildings which the committee is fully aware of and plans to address over the coming year.

The boatmen continue to do their usual good job and Gerald seems to be coping well with the demands of OOD duties with some occasional challenges. Cissy continues to run the kitchen well, often making hot lunches and also expanding her recipe collection with the help of Margaret and Harriet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work over the last year and wish them well for the coming year.

Membership

Membership levels at the Club remain stable, albeit on the low side. We have maintained numbers for the regular sailing events although there is a heavy reliance on a key group of about 15 sailors. This is an ongoing concern going forward.



The courses continue to be very popular but it still remains a challenge for us to retain course students and bring them back as members.

We continue to have interest from KISU who have another event planned this fall.

Your committee often discusses ways to get more people out to the club. We have created a linkage with the Uganda Rowing Association and hope to host some competitive rowing events at the club which would bring visibility to the club and potentially open up a new sport to members as well. We hope to put up a beach volleyball court on the north beach and work with Activate Uganda to host tournaments on Saturdays at the club to also bring more people out from Kampala.

This is really a club wide effort so I ask that all members try and promote the club among their social circles so we can get membership numbers up and hopefully have more capital for improvements both to the buildings and sailing equipment.

Finances

Bernard has taken over from Emma and will provide details on the financial situation of the Club but I would like to reiterate that the Club is still heavily indebted to a handful of members who parted with cash to finance the 2010 renovations, and I would like to thank them for their continued patience in waiting for their repayments. Thanks to Emma and Bernard for their work as treasurers and also Rob for his support on the audits.

Sailing

The Sailing Secretary position was transferred from Rene/Jelmer to Tom Smith. In addition to our usual annual series events, we hosted a very successful Uganda laser open and several members participated in the Entebbe laser open. Once again Kaazi sailors were well represented in neighbouring country events in Kenya and Tanzania. Due to the transition of the sailing secretary, a full report may not be ready in time for the AGM but your committee will circulate a full report with results as soon as it is ready. I'd like to thank Rene and in particular Jelmer for their wonderful weekly write-ups and keeping the handicaps going.

Boats

The Club has continued its efforts to keep its boats in good order, Collins has been working hard to make any repairs to club boats and has done a great job restoring a second canoe for the club. All boats are to be checked regularly so that club boats are maintained in a good state of repair.

House

Thanks to Harriet and Margaret for their work behind the scenes to make sure we are all fed well on Sundays. The lunch rota seems to be working well and we have also had participation from some non-laser sailing members in helping out with lunch, we only wish they would also join us at the table!

Grounds

Work on the grounds is a behind the scenes job that is often taken for granted by members; it takes a lot of effort (and expense) to keep the Club looking as it does and I know that Philip and Kim have put in many hours here and there to repair and replace many items. Often you can find Philip sneaking off to the club during the week time to work with Collins and others on the endless list of repairs of our aging club. This certainly has not gone unnoticed and I thank you both for your time and efforts.

The committee has endorsed plans to repaint the buildings and Gordon successfully negotiated a large discount on the paint price so things will look brighter in the coming months so you can look forward to some bright changes around the club for the coming year.



Publicity

The website has had some challenges and Reint is currently making some changes to the host, more on that from Reint...In addition I am exploring other ways to market our events including through Activate Uganda (mainly markets sporting events, charity runs) which has linkages to sporting enthusiasts. Other marketing ideas are welcome from members.

In conclusion

This year's committee has continued to keep our Club running well, and as chairman of the committee I would like to thank everyone for the time and effort they have put in. The staff have also given their very best efforts and I know that all the work they do behind the scenes during the week is very much appreciated by the members. Our Club retains its charm and no doubt its position as the most active sailing club in East Africa. We have a unique spot and an opportunity to expand waterfront activities and encourage more Kampala residents to make the trip down to Kaazi and get away from the hectic pace of Kampala life. I want to welcome the new committee and look forward to an even better year of sailing ahead.

Steven Reynolds
Commodore VNSC 12/13

