

Durban's Home of

- Remote Controlled Sailing
- Remote Controlled Power Boats
- Scale Model Boats

Durban Radio Boat Club

The DRBC Logbook

April – June 2026

A word from the Commodore:

I recall making the observation in a newsletter late last year that Laser sailing was in the doldrums. This comment could also be made regarding RG sailing and Pro Loafers Wednesday gatherings, where numbers declined to the extent that some events were abandoned. The seasonal low level of water in the pond certainly has not helped matters.

Meanwhile, the DF and IOM classes have maintained their own momentum, as has power racing.

There is now light at the end of the tunnel. Perhaps spring has sprung! The August Laser regatta attracted a fleet of 8 boats , which shows what can be done!!

There are many boats out there that are not being sailed. So once again the cry goes out **"Please come and sail!"**. We have an excellent venue and a Club that is in sound condition. Let us make the coming summer a memorable one for sailing and the club.

Had Dave Wiseman not suffered his unexpected illness late last year, he would now be serving as Commodore.

We have received a message from him explaining that the medical treatment he is receiving has resulted in tremendous improvement to his physical and mental health, to the extent that he recently completed in the Amashova cycle race, finishing in a creditable time. A great achievement.

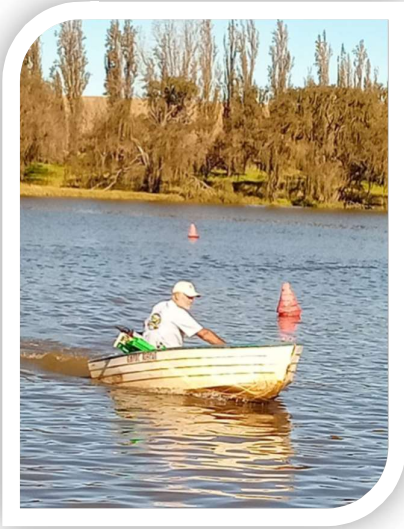
Best Wishes to you Dave. We look forward to seeing you at the pond soon.

Peter

POWERBOATS

The second quarter was relatively quiet on the local front, with most attention focused on the annual Interprovincial Championships held over the long weekend in Petrus Steyn.

The trip to the Free State proved to be an outstanding success for DRBC. Our competitors dominated the event, winning all five racing classes on offer, while also collecting numerous podium finishes, including several second and third places. It was a fantastic team effort and a result the club can be proud of.



Will Sheriff manning the rescue boat

The Team in Petrus Steyn (Bottom left)



The social side of the weekend was equally memorable. Plenty of laughs were had during the RC car challenge, where competitors attempted to negotiate a course with both the steering and throttle controls reversed! Live entertainment on both Friday and Saturday evenings, courtesy of local singer Wenzel, ensured the celebrations continued long after racing had finished. Special mention must go to

Rowan, who enthusiastically led the dance floor.

Back home we managed one race day at the pond, although unfortunately low water levels caused several boats to run aground and sustain damage. Hopefully the next higher tides will restore the pond to racing condition.

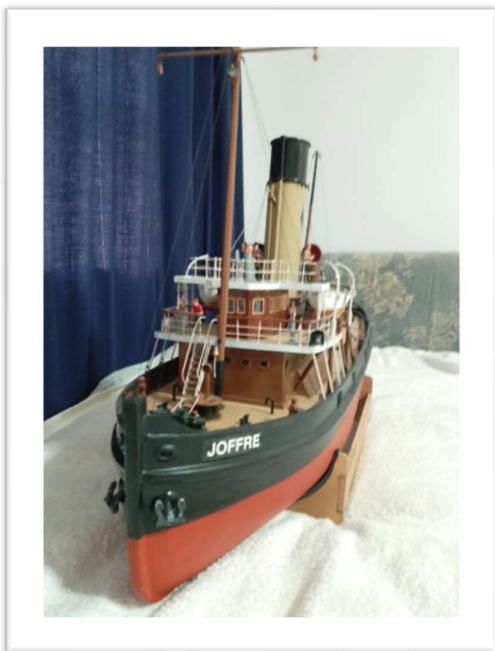
Our thoughts remain with former Commodore Dave Wiseman as he continues his recovery following several serious health scares. We also extend our sincere condolences to Gary Chapman and the Chapman family following the recent passing of Gary's father-in-law. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carwyn Chapman and the family during this difficult time.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on the water soon and wish all our DRBC competitors the very best for the coming events.

SCALE SECTION

Despite the pond water levels remaining frustratingly low, the Scale Section has enjoyed several excellent gatherings over the past few months. It has been wonderful to see so many beautifully crafted models back on the water and members enjoying each other's company.

Marinus has recently completed his magnificent model of the **Joffre Tug**, a project that has attracted considerable admiration from fellow members.



Joffre Tug by Marinus

Meanwhile, Lofty has been hard at work restoring two fascinating historic vessels—a post-war torpedo boat and a World War II gunboat. Both restorations are progressing well and we look forward to seeing them back on the water in the near future.



The Scale fleet continues to showcase the incredible craftsmanship and dedication of our members. (Photos: Marinus' Joffrey Tug and Lofty's two restorations.)

PRO-LOAFERS

The Pro-Loafers continue to prove that Wednesday mornings are about far more than just sailing!

RG65

Six Wednesday sessions were scheduled during the quarter, with three successfully sailed. Unfortunately the remaining three were cancelled due to insufficient skipper numbers.

Radio Controlled Lasers

Seven Laser mornings were scheduled, of which four were sailed. One was cancelled because of low attendance and two more fell victim to the exceptionally low water levels in the pond.

The social side of the Pro-Loafers has also been quieter than usual. Only one braai was held during the quarter, while on a couple of occasions members simply enjoyed a chat over a well-earned cold beverage after sailing.

Several regular members continue to deal with ongoing medical treatment, while others have been fortunate enough to spend time travelling. We wish everyone a speedy recovery, safe travels, and look forward to welcoming everyone back.

Here's hoping the coming quarter sees the braai fires burning regularly once again.

IOMs



Unfortunately, low water levels have had an effect but now with the winter swell and reasonably spring high tides we should be having no problem with water levels for the rest of the year.

The resurgence of the IOM class continues country wide with the IOM Nationals taking place from the 14th -16th August up at Witbank. We are expecting some great racing with Des and Norrie, both past National Champions leading our charge. It will be interesting to see how the new plastic printed boats fare – this could be a game changer. The top modern international IOMs have traditionally been an elitist boat with both price and availability making ownership prohibitive for many. With a few considerably more economical modern plastic printed boats making their way onto the water the IOM class is having a massive resurgence internationally.

Several of our current IOMs in South Africa were designed and made by Craig Richards, formerly from Cape Town. Craig emigrated to the UK before covid and during the last few years has been developing the Proteus, a plastic printed IOM yacht for which he sells the printable cad drawings for a modest amount on the international market but apparently offering them free to South Africans.



Craig Richards Proteus, courtesy of a post from Craig on Facebook

DF95

With the DF95 World Championships at Theewaterskloof Dam fast approaching in October, local skippers have been making every opportunity count, fitting in as much racing and practice as possible. DRBC will be represented by Des Fairbank, Bruce Schnell, Tim Phillips, Denny Moffatt and John Herridge in this prestigious eight-day event, competing against approximately 80 sailors from 15 countries.

The National Championships were held in Port Elizabeth during late April, with a strong DRBC contingent making the trip.



The DF 95 Nationals field in Port Elizabeth



Our congratulations go to:

- 🏆 **Des Fairbank** — 3rd Overall
- **Bruce Schnell** — 5th Overall
- **Norrie** — Qualified for the Gold Fleet

Denny Moffatt and John Herridge both sailed consistently throughout the three-day regatta and narrowly missed podium finishes in the Silver Fleet.

With the water level low preventing sailing in the pond during June and July, a few of us took the trip to Cape Town to complete in the Christmas in July Regatta at Theewaters Kloof Dam up in the mountains above Cape Town. Conditions were great with winds ranging through the full spectrum making for very exciting sailing with 18 boats on the water.



Theewaters Kloof – Christmas in July Regatta – the waves made for interesting sailing

Bruce finished second while Des tied on third. Christmas in July Regatta at Theewaters Kloof in the Cape – the wind and the fetch produce waves that we don't have to contend with at the Pond .

With several months still remaining before the Globals, competition at Blue Lagoon is becoming increasingly intense as skippers fine-tune their boats and sharpen their racing skills. The countdown has truly begun.

We do have access to a few spare boats to anyone that wants to try their hand out at DF 95 sailing – Thursday afternoons or the second Sunday of every month – Give Inus a call

For Sale – Second Time Around



**Trailer For Sale , R7750 1500mmx1100mm x1100mm ,
contact Dieter cell: 068 807 2971**



**Proboat PT109 - 1/24 scale RC, with crew made by Vince Novak. Light
weathering done by George Steytler ex hillcrest Hobbies R5250.
contact Dieter cell: 068 807 2971**