

Durban Radio Boat Club

Newsletter – Third & Fourth Quarters (October 2025)

Commodore - Dave Wiseman

What a year for the club! Some super results and achievements from our sailors and pilots across the board!

The pond facility looking better and better every month, thanks primarily to the efforts of Bruce and his team, the club admin is running solidly and funds are good, despite all the maintenance carried out by the club, and importantly, the club numbers are solid across all 3 divisions, with scale also showing more and more activity too.

On the sad note, we have lost three guys who were involved in the club during this 2025 year, with one of our most active members, both on the water and behind the scenes as well. Sadly, Ian Gielink lost his battle with cancer, and his enthusiasm, friendship and willingness to take on and promote all aspects of the club will be sadly missed by all of the club. Rest easy Ian and thanks for all your efforts.

The sail guys have just returned from a IOM SA National Championship event in Witbank. Where Norrie Taylor was right up on the pace of the “youngsters “and our Power guys have just returned from another successful trip to Bethlehem where they raced some Endurance events as well. Hopefully they too will also have an SA Championship event to host or attend next year as well. Although formal events taper a bit in the festive season, I’m sure the pond will remain active with testing and “on the water” sessions as well.

The committee wishes all members and families a super festive period for all. Enjoy and get building and repairing !!

The AGM and an open morning to get our year underway will take place on 18 Jan 2026 so get your thoughts and boats together for the start of a great year for the club. Look forward to seeing you all soon!

General



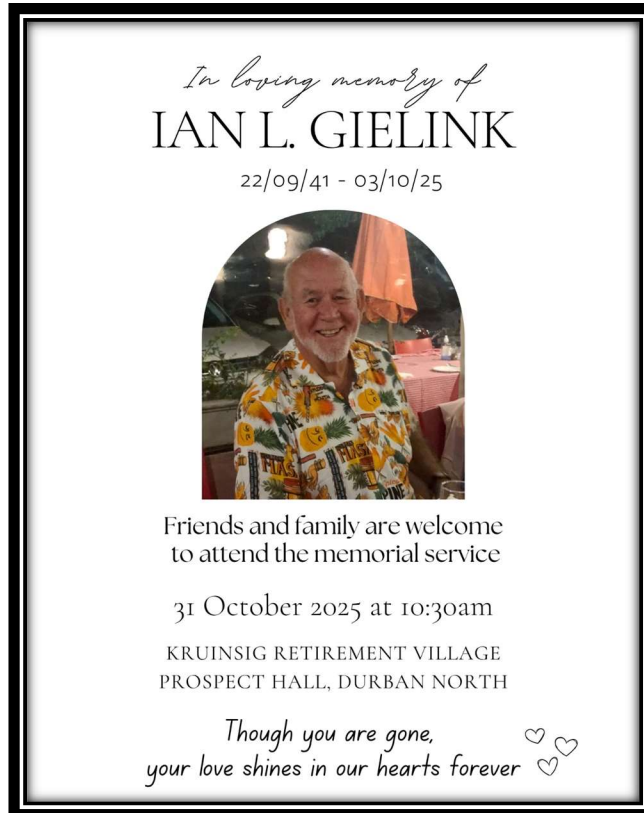
Reminder the club website is <https://www.drbc.co.za> or can be reached on the following QR Code.

Invoices for 2026 fees will be sent out early in December – please remember the Bank Account has changed and is no longer Nedbank – it is now Standard Bank And details can be found on the website using the following link <https://www.drbc.co.za/Membership.html>

Save the Date – Sunday 18 January 2025 – Club AGM followed by a bit of an open day.

Tributes

It is with great sadness that we note the loss of a club stalwart, Ian Gielink.



Ian was a real live wire and took charge with driving many club initiatives :

the Wednesday pro-loafers regular get togethers where he would scout different venues for suitability & pensioners discounts; the year end parties; the regular edited video clips of events; a sea-scout day where Ian arranged a morning with the sea scouts where he introduced them to radio sailing – the list is endless.

Ian served on the DRBC club committee as representative for the Pro-Loafers and a short stint at treasurer.

Ian was never shy to get stuck in, assisting with tea & coffees at the DF 95 regionals supplied his own homemade sandwiches for AGMs and open days - a favourite was his hot potato chips.

He built and installed his own high chair to give him a vantage point to help sail with his disability.



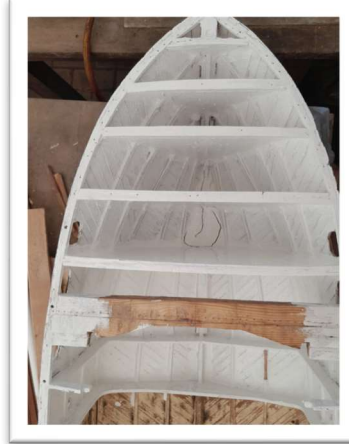
Inus has kindly varnished the high chair and supplied and installed a plaque in memory of Ian



Ian enjoyed life to the fullest and was an inspiration to all – Rest Well Ian

Scale – Trevore Cole

A quick update from the scale group, not much sailing over the last few Sunday's due to bad weather but the building goes on.

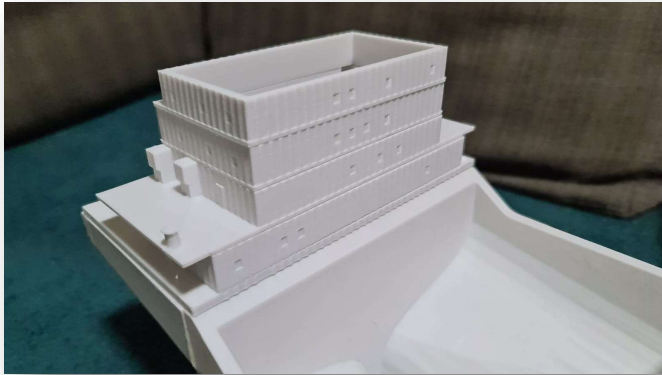


Lofty is busy with a restoration on a large scale motor launch

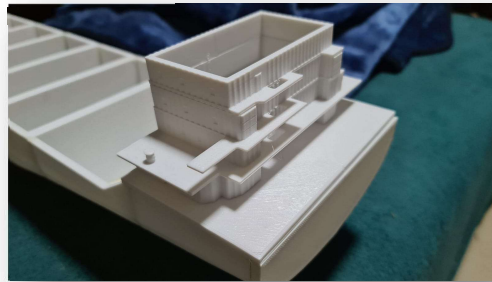


Marius is putting the finishing touches to his build of the Joffrey tug,





Marius is using technology, a 3D printer to build what could become a container ship, we hope to see them on the water soon.



More soon happy building and happy sailing 🙌 🙌

Power Section

Greetings all from the hooligans in powerboat section of the best club in KZN.

The DRBC team recently went to race the enduro champs in Petrus Steyn in the Free State held on the weekend of the 3rd to 5th October.

On a sad note: Our JHB competitor, Del Oliveira, tragically died a few days before the enduro race weekend due to a fatal elevator shaft fall. We keep his wife, Rita and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

This event comprises of 3 x 5 min sprint races per class as well as 3 x 30 min enduro races per class, with concentration and reliability the order of the day.

Podium finishes by our members as follows:

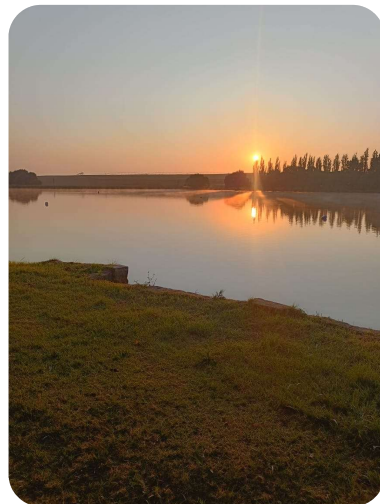
- Lionel Oliver DRBC won Stock Enduro class,
- Luke Walters 2nd in Modified Enduro class.
- Sprint champs Luke,
- Lionel and Gary took all podium spots in stock mono,
- Will 2nd in Stock Cat,
- Lionel again in 1st in modified mono class.

On the whole a super weekend was had by all with Will Sheriff winning the nearest to the hole in the mini golf champs.



Gary receiving an Award from Hugo for services rendered

Venues don't get much better than this – Petrus Steyn





Q4, the final chapter in 2025 will prove to be a challenge as everyone looks to a class win.

The DRBC Power club championships still has 1 race day to go and at this stage the points for the championship still very close.

The Race day is on Saturday morning, 1 November 2025

Come down and watch!

Drive, race and live safely boys and girls.

RC Laser - Peter Heathcote

It is sad to report that Laser sailing has somewhat fallen into the doldrums recently. For many reasons, between July and September four sailing days needed to be cancelled. The low point was reached when the October Sunday regatta was not held.

This is a moment to reflect that the existence of our Laser fleet is due to the effort of Terry Flynn, who imported several batches of boats, and has run our Laser sailing for over 20 years.

Terry has decided to withdraw from organising events, but will still be around, and remains interested and supportive of Laser sailing and the club.

The lasers are a phenomenal entry into the RC sailing discipline but are currently really in need of a driver for this section – to build up enthusiasm and co-ordinate race days Club & Provincial etc. and to liaise with the committee for the newsletter etc. Please let the committee know whether you are prepared to take this role on!



November is the month of the Movember Movement for global awareness of prostate cancer. Let's have a big turnout for the lasers this Sunday , 2nd of November 2025 in memory of our dear friend Ian Gielink and all those others suffering from prostate cancer.

Come guys, lets have a big turnout this Sunday with your lasers in memory of Ian Gielink and all those other suffering from prostate cancer. Book the date, Sunday the 2nd November & start growing those moustaches or alternatively come with your artificial one!!

RG65 -Inus De Wet

The RG65 class had 8 Wednesday slots book for this period of which one was cancelled due to low water levels, and the other due to it falling on a public holiday. The other events were well attended with 5 -6 boats on the water. We looking forward to see Bruce Edwards with his new boat no 11 on the water in the last quarter, and for No. 7 to join us.

The Project of manufacturing a few RG65 "in house" is still ongoing, with Bruce (Schnell) having moulded a few hulls, keels and rudders already. He will give us updates as we go along with this project.



Joe inspecting one of the new RG 65 hulls while waiting for the braai

IOM Class –Norrie Taylor & Bruce Schnell

The IOM fleet at the DRBC has been very overlooked during the past 3 months with some of their allocated sailing days given to the 95 class because the DF 95 class had a series of national and region sailing events during the third quarter as well as low water on the pond.

The IOM class had little time to prepare for the Nationals which was held at Witbank on the weekend of 18th-19th October 2025.

There has been a IOM revival across the country with 23 entries into the Nationals requiring two fleets.

Participants came from inland (Gauteng, Northern etc) , KZN , E. Cape and W. Cape, with 3 representatives from DRBC.



Our one and only evergreen **Norrie Taylor** secured a podium finish with a 3rd place in a competitive fleet at the IOM Nationals

Well Done Norrie and incredible achievement at the tender age of 89 years young!

Witbank has brilliant facilities for radio sailing which includes a robust lean-to structure to protect the sailors from the elements complete with a mobile bar to settle those nerves



However much more time on the water is needed for the of our IOM sailors to learn the difficult art of fine tuning these boats - half a turn on one of the several nuts & threads or a tiny movement on a bowsie make a huge difference to the performance – a skill that Norrie is happy to pass on!

There are a couple of boats available and if you want to look at getting into sailing the IOM class make an enquiry with one of the committee members.

With John Jorgensen from MRYC (Midmar) now ready to start 3D printing and commercially producing the Proteus IOM designed by a world class ex-South African RC sailor Craig Richards. Hopefully John restores the monthly IOM sailing on a Sunday at Midmar Dam.

DF95s – Bruce Schnell

The DF95s have had a very active period on the Pond with up to 11 boats on the water at club events on a Thursday afternoon and Sunday morning, preparing for the Nationals that was held at Witbank Dam over a three day period from the 19th to the 21st of September 2025.

With sailors looking for a spot in the upcoming Globals to be held at Theewaters Kloof Dam in the W Cape Province in October 2026 , it was a very competitive fleet at the Witbank Nationals with 35 boats entering.



John Herridge and Denny Moffat looking on

DRBC had a very large contingent with 10 entries – well done guys! There were 3 heats for each race for the qualifiers after which the competitors were separated into 3 fleets, Gold , Silver and Bronze for the finals . Congratulations to our Des Fairbank securing a very respectable bronze medal in the Gold Fleet and to John Herridge and Grant Owen securing Gold and Silver medals in the Silver Fleet respectively. In total 18 races of 3 heats each ie a total of 54 heats were held – a huge achievement and well done to the Witbank Club for a well organised and most enjoyable event.

The Western Cape Regionals was held at Theewater Kloof dam on the 10th -12th October 2025. We had two entries, Denny Moffat and Bruce Schnell, while both managed to make the Gold Fleet they weren't successful in achieving podium finishes. Again a very good , well organised event.

Pro-Loafers - Inus De Wet

We had 13 Wednesday's earmarked for "Sail & Braai" events, of which 3 were cancelled due to low water levels in the pond mid July till beginning August. One event in September was cancelled due to falling on a public holiday. The nine that took place was reasonably well attended. On the bright side we would like to welcome Jutin Von Niebel, who acquired RC Laser no. 150, and has already attended our last event. Bruce Edwards has bought RG65 no 11. This will help boost our Wednesday's number of bouts on the water whilst we wait for boat 7 to make its way back to the pond.

Let's make the most of the left over Wednesday's in October, November & December.



The part everyone likes about Pro-Loafers



Good to have surprise visitors, Rob and Alice Drew join us

Newsletter Editor – Bruce Schnell

The End