

## **Durban Radio Boat Club**

### **News Letter – Second Quarter (July 2025)**

#### **Commodore - Dave Wiseman**

Firstly, on a sad note we have lost two of our younger boat enthusiasts with the tragic motor accident of Rowan, a past vice Commodore of the club and someone who over the years, had massive input into the club, especially the scale sector. Then, a few weeks later, the club lost Andries, one of the most willing and enthusiastic power members, who sadly passed after contracting a serious post op infection after a major cancer operation. We mourn their loss and our condolences to both families and friends of these “boat guys!” You will both be missed!

Moving forward, and on a very positive note, the club has quite a few plans which we are going ahead on including some clubhouse maintenance, some dredging of the pond to get more clearance when we have low water levels and a long term plan to buffer and square up the sides of the pond and again dredge to try stop some of the corrosion as when the lapping of the water in the wind, it starts eroding the banks and also giving us a pond effect with very shallow edges whereas we are ideally needing deeper water on the edges for all divisions of the club. We are also starting a general clean out in the water, especially near the edges, as much of the debris, wood poles, rocks etc. is located there. This will hopefully help to make our boating even more pleasurable for all.

The club has been very frugal in the past years despite the massive cleanout we were involved in during the floods and we are in a happy state where we can again fund some of these projects from funds saved over these past years. Well done to all.

Many of you are also probably unaware that the club has a website up and running so please keep an eye on it and support with some input from you guys. We should

also be able to get a selling and wanted sector going here to assist members to find some of those hard-to-get bits and boats.



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

Please note we no longer bank at Nedbank and have opened a business account at Standard Bank – the details can be found on the website using the following link

<https://www.drbc.co.za/Membership.html>

Obvious big news is the **Open Day** on 24 August 2025, more detailed info to follow and if you have stuff and boats to sell, we encourage you to bring these down and hopefully we can pick up a couple of new members here as well.

Thanks to all sectors for their commitment to help drive this day and be active in your group to make this a full club turnout and a great exposure day for our hobby and sport as well.

## **Key Lock Change for Clubhouse: August 2025**

Please note that we will be changing the clubhouse locks during August 2025 to enhance the safety of our club facilities.

### **New Key Collection**

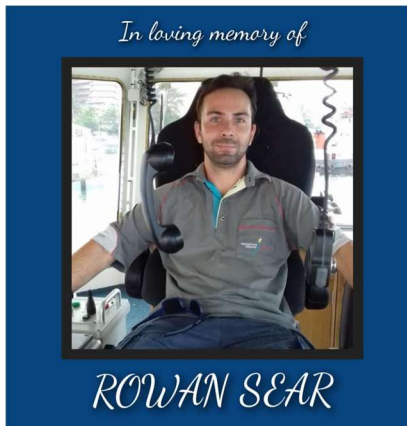
New keys will be required for access and are available to fully paid up members for R25 each. Keys can be collected from the club secretary, or at our Club Open Day on the 24th of August.

- Lock change scheduled for August 2025
- New keys: R25 each
- Keys available from the club secretary or at Club Open Day (24 August)

Thank you for your cooperation as we upgrade our security. For more information, please contact the club secretary Tim Phillips. It's important for all members to take personal responsibility for the security of the clubhouse. After opening the clubhouse, please ensure that you lock it when you leave.

## Tributes

Its with great sadness that we add this section to the newsletter with the loss of two friends.



### Rowan Sear

Sadly and very tragically we lost a very good friend in a motor vehicle accident. Rowan was an avid scale model builder. He had been a previous member of the Club for 20 plus years .

Rowan leaves behind a loving wife, two little boys and his mum.

RIP Rowan our friend 🙏❤️



**Andries**, Gerhardus Geldenhuys, our fellow powerboater, father, husband, uncle, friend, helper, powerboat promoter left us on the 26 May 2025 after complications due to a cancer operation at age 54 to race boats in Heaven. He leaves behind grieving family and friends who attended his memorial on 28 June 2025. His friendly disposition, willingness to help and love of life will never be forgotten. Andries is clearly remembered by many from the other divisions of the Club for the manner in which he climbed in, took control and directed the cleanup of

debris in the Pond during the June 2023 flooding.

**Rest easy Big Man.**

## Scale – Trevor Cole

Two of the scale boats on display on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> April



This is a scratch build of a flush deck two mast schooner under construction by **Jean Rinddell**, we can't wait to see her on the pond.



More soon happy building and happy sailing 🙌🙌

## Power Section

Since the last report, the team participated in the Inter Provincial championship hosted in Petrus Steyn from 1 - 5 May 2025. A super result for the team with top 3 results as follows:

**Stock monohull** 1st Luke Walters, 2nd Gary Chapman, 3rd Lionel Oliver

**Mod monohull** 1st Dave Wiseman, 2nd Leomark Richards 3rd Gary Chapman

**Stock cat** 1st Gary Chapman 2nd Lionel Oliver 3rd Kobus Visser (**Free state**)

**Mod cat** 1st Dave Wiseman 2nd Dieter Schauerte 3rd Burgert Terblanche (**Namibia**)

**Formula 1** 1st Del DeOliveira (**Gauteng**) 2nd Dave Wiseman 3rd Hugo Britz (**Gauteng**).



Barring those team KZN took all other top 3 places making it a very successful long weekend. Now the Club season continues with hard racing the order of the day. Post the Inter-provincials, the boats need some TLC.

On a very sad note, we lost our mate, fellow competitor and super supporter, Andries Geldenhuys at the end of May post cancer op complications. The team really stepped up to help the family and it

shows what strong friendships exists. Many thanks to one and all.

We hope thee sailing team and scale team have a super 2nd half of 2025. Regards  
Power Boys and Girls.

## **RC Laser – Peter Heathcote**

Laser sailing got off to a very slow start in the last quarter, with 6 days of sailing lost due to poor turnout, bad weather and general sickness amongst members.

Matters have very much now improved, with 9 and 6 boats on the 6th and 9th of July respectively ! Both days providing excellent sailing in light winds. The winners were John Eales on the 6th and Tim Phillips on the 9th.

Good to see keen sailor John Quarmby back in town, but the keenest of all is Bruce Edward, whose many hours of practice will stand him in good stead in the future.

A hearty welcome to two new members to the fleet ; Andrew Fletcher and Ian Yates. Peter.

## **RG65 -Inus De Wet**

For April to end June, of the 6 Wednesdays allocated to RG65s, 4 regattas took place, whilst 2 were cancelled due to rainy weather. The number of sailors was low largely being due to Tim being away for a while and our annual migration swallow or should I say sailor, John Quarmby was not back in Durban yet. All is almost back to normal, so we expect more boats on the water in the next quarter.

Great news, is that Bruce Schnell has made a mould for the RG65 with the first hull cast. The intention is to learn about building boats and to grow the fleet. He is being ably supported by Joe – a master RC sail boat manufacturer and a part of the original RG65 project in South Africa. Bruce is also hoping to rope in both Inus and Tim into the project and if anyone else is interested in joining the project please let him know.

RG65s are a fun boat, pretty easy to set up and sail – hopefully we can get enough interest to get the monthly Sunday regattas going again.

If anyone is interested in a boat please contact Bruce on cell 082 902 3361.

## IOM Class – Norrie Taylor

Unfortunately, there is not a lot of allocated sailing days for the IOMs at the Club. About 12 of our members own IOMs and more time on the water is what is required. The IOM Class is the only Internationally recognised radio sailing class in SA and is very important to radio sailing in this country.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel with the notable increase of interest in the IOMs from our top skippers with two Cape Town boats also sailing in the IOM Northern regionals in Witbank earlier this year. . Upgrades of boats are taking place especially with the rigs where sails and fittings etc have been imported.

With the Class expanding in the northern part of the Country there is a lot of interest in the 2025 National Championships which will be sailed at the Witbank Yacht and Aquatic Club on the 18th and 19th October 2025. The Witbank Club is well known for great sailing conditions and excellent facilities including a top-class clubhouse, bar, restaurant, ablutions and campsite.

John Jorgensen is setting up a production line at his home in Howick to produce IOMs for the local and international markets. This will certainly boost the Class in this Country.

We will get more news from John when he is fully operational.

"What is best for radio sailing"

**PS** Congratulations to our evergreen Norrie Taylor who got a second at the IOM Northern regionals – **Norrie you legend!**

## DF95s – Bruce Schnell

The DFs continue to be a very active class with sailing every Thursday afternoon and one or two Sundays a month – being a one design class, we all compete on an equal footing and with a relatively low cost entry level it's the quickest growing fleet in the world. The DF Agent, Des Fairbank has been out of stock for a while waiting for the ship to dock but finally the long awaited boats are available again. Shortly we will be welcoming Richard Wytryłowski and Andrew Fletcher to the fleet when they have their new boats assembled.

A number of our recent club days have attracted 10 and 11 boats on the water.



For the last month or so we have had an Australian visitor John Wyatte join us. John sailed at the last Globals in the UK and is very well ranked in Australia.

Our fleet is very competitive and with large numbers racing we need to ensure that we don't put off the new sailors with shouting.

The recent KZN regionals took place at Midmar Dam in June. Unfortunately, the wind didn't play its part and over two full days we only got in 5 races due to the lack of wind.



Nevertheless congratulations to Norrie Taylor who sailed his way into second place for a well deserved podium finish.

The Nationals are taking place at Witbank from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2025. Cape Radio Yacht Club has won the right to host the Globals next year which will be held in October 2026 at Cape Town.

## Pro-Loafers - Inus De Wet

Of the 13 allocated Wednesday races for April till end June, RC Laser only sailed once due to not enough sailors, whilst RG65 sailed 4 times, missing 2 events due to rainy weather.

It was nice see Joe back the water with his RG65 after his illness.

As always the braaiing was the winner after these events – a big thankyou to our Braai Master, Pierre Le Roux.

We are pleased to welcome John Quarmby back from Cape Town, who is a keen and regular participant when in Durban. Happy sailing and braaiing on Wednesdays in the 3rd Quarter.



**What we do best !!!**

*The End*