

SA President's End of Season Report June 2010.

Compared to the 2008-9 season, this year has felt quite calm from a presidential perspective, but quite a lot has been going on. In this last season, we have trialled a slightly different format for the State Titles, had numerous team alterations, held our very own land based come'n'try day in 30 knots, assisted with the sale of 4 boats that have been in hibernation and welcomed their new owners into the fold and awarded the handicap trophy to one of those boats. The association has slowly but surely been working towards attracting more sailors and in particular young families to the class. We have grown our fleet from the 6 or 7 boats regularly racing 5 years ago when Andrew and I arrived in SA, to 10 or sometimes 12 boats on a state or club championship heat. The numbers aren't spectacular, but its a 30-50% increase, depending on which day you count the competitors, so I believe we have had significant growth. This is due, in my opinion, to the efforts of a committed team of long standing members, who know who they are (and so does everyone else) as well as a few major initiatives such as the new website (thank you Adrian), Chris's come'n'try day and the general welcoming and helpful attitude of SA NS sailors. Andrew and I have the beneficiaries of that welcome including plenty of assistance with buying our first SA boat (we are now on our third). I hope we can capitalise on the momentum and continue to grow and attract new members in the coming years. Something I would like to encourage is current members thinking of upgrading, to seriously consider bringing interstate boats over and trying to sell their old boat within SA to grow our fleet. Adrian has shown that bringing a boat over, even from Tassie, is not that difficult and our success with clearing boats out of sheds in the last 12 months speaks to the market here in Adelaide if we continue to market the class appropriately. We will always struggle to grow if people can't get boats and second hand boats are vital for getting newcomers on board. The association itself has been crucial in brokering contacts between potential buyers and people with boats to sell. This is a simple role that needs to be maintained into the future. Something I think we can work on as a class is our visibility at club level. We have only had 2 or 3 article in the log book this year when I have gotten around to it myself. Being recognised as a vibrant part of our main supporting club is going to be crucial moving forward and simple monthly contributions could help this. Also on this theme, our SA webpage content is always grossly out of date with very few individuals contributing. The more people that can contribute something (anything), the less it will be noticed when specific articles are late. Anyway, I think that's about all I've got to say. I would like to thank the committee and the association in general for their support over the last 2 years. We are a team of volunteers and we all rely on each other to keep things working.