

## General Committee (GenCom) Mid-Term Report February 2025

### **Commodore's Report**

I acknowledge that there are issues with our access control. Our facial recognition service provider is working on the glitches, and as a committee we are looking at ways to improve the ingress points. Together with the club's management we have completed an update of the standard operating procedures that relate to security and access control.

As a committee we recognise that the manner in which the club is currently running the restaurant, is in conflict with parts of the Constitution. This is something that Trustees are acutely aware of. There are, however, legacy, staffing and viability issues that need to be taken into consideration also. We are fully aware that any changes to the Constitution can only be addressed at the AGM in August.

The club has always had restrictions related to commercial activities and the number of commercial operators. These restrictions have been flouted by a few and is being addressed.

Natasha Adonis, our General Manager, will be leaving the club's employ at the end of February. I wish Natasha all the best for the future. In the interim Paul Dennett, Restaurant and Sailing Manager, will take on a broader role. With Natasha's help we are in the process of transitioning some of the accounting and human resources functions to outsource providers. The outsource providers will benefit the club in terms of cost savings and appropriate skills relating to compliancy and accounting practices. We are looking to employ a bookkeeper as not all accounting functions are being outsourced.

You will see in the reports below that it is not all bad news!

Claire Walter  
***FBYC – Commodore***

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### **Sailing Report**

#### **Club Racing:**

The news is very positive with Wednesday Twilight Series numbers growing.

We are getting 18+ boats on the water which is a sure sign of extra enthusiasm.

We have just completed the SCONE SHACK Summer Twilight Series One, where we had a total of 28 boats competing over the series.

This week coming, we welcome back ALLPORT CARGO SERVICES as sponsor for the Summer Twilight Series Two, which runs until the end of March.

The weekend sailing is also slowly gaining momentum. C & A FRIELANDER and REMAX PREMIER are onboard sponsoring the Saturday FBYC Round the Cans Series, with 20 boats competing. We have also had 14 boats in total competing in the Sunday Medium Distance Series which is an improvement.

Paul Dennett our Sailing Manager is experiencing some pressure from certain members about the ORC Ratings system and has now been reported to SAS by ORC SA for using 2024 ratings in three of this year's race results.

The Twilight Series was almost finished and with very few new 2025 ORC Certificates available, we used the same 2024 ratings to complete the series, rather than not scoring boats.

This in hindsight was perhaps an error on our part as we did not obtain permission from ORC to do this, unlike RCYC who did get permission from ORC for similar issues at GIMCO regatta.

Our main objective is to get more boats involved and on to the water and to encourage more yachts to experience Racing at FBYC, which is slowly but surely being achieved.

#### **Junior / Youth Sailing:**

The Lawhill students are back to training on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The SAMTRA students will be commencing training on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The youth programme will be starting up again in the next series, where we are aiming to have both L26's back in the fleet again.

#### **Bridge Boat:**

We have finally managed to purchase a Bridge Boat, which is really going to improve the dynamics of our exciting new wet starts. We are still carrying out some work on it but should be operational soon.

#### **Lipton Cup 2025 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August:**

With the announcement that this year's event will be competed for on J22's, we are actively looking for a boat to use for our crew from FBYC.

#### **Spring Regatta September 2025:**

The Sailing Committee has met and plans for the organising of the event have commenced.

We are aiming to make this a special year and fun time for all so mark this in your diaries now!

#### **Agulhas Race September 2025 on weekend directly after Spring Regatta.**

Meetings for the New Agulhas Race is in discussions and Paul and his team is in negotiations with generous sponsors for this potentially unique event. Details to follow.

All in all, we are seeing a positive upswing in the sailing at FBYC by the number of boats entering races. There is also a noticeable increase in the number of younger members who are being encouraged by various in-house programmes, to come out and sail. Hopefully we will be starting a trend to leaving their electronic devices at home for a while and come an experience the sheer exhilaration that can only be achieved by being at sea.

Yours in Sailing

Richard Sissons

***FBYC – Rear Commodore Angling***

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#### **Angling Report**

We have made great strides in getting our club fishermen involved in the Western Province (WP) League, and it's showing positive results. As of the end of last season, we proudly had the top-placed junior angler and the top-placed lady angler in the WP League. This success continues as we push forward.

This year, we've already completed two legs, including an away day last weekend. More and more fishermen and boats are getting involved, and all of this is happening under the auspices of the Western Province Deep Sea Angling Association, which is affiliated with the South African Deep Sea Angling Association. Ultimately, this association is connected to the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), based in Florida, USA.

What does this mean for you? By participating in our league, you'll have the opportunity to sharpen your angling skills and build lasting camaraderie with fellow anglers.

In addition to our fishing efforts, we continue to manage the slipway, the ice machine, and the angling jetty. Each of these areas comes with its own set of challenges, and we are working on updating the rules for all of these to ensure a smoother and fairer experience for everyone.

We also have club T-shirts available at a reasonable price through the chandlery.

Our ongoing competition is still active, and we're just waiting for a few more members to enter. Rest assured, all catches are being recorded and tracked.

We encourage all of our fishermen to make full use of the club's facilities and enjoy the fine food and refreshments available.

Gareth Decker

***FBYC – Rear Angling Commodore***

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### **Rowing Report**

As we hit the halfway mark in the quarter, it's a good time to take stock of what's been happening on and off the water. We've been making the most of the incredible weather, clocking in some solid long rows and soaking up the best of what our coastline has to offer. The ocean has been playing along beautifully, with dolphin escorts and the odd whale sighting keeping things interesting.

Our Learn-to-Row programme is flying, with five new rowers currently in training. If all goes well (fingers crossed!), we'll welcome them as full-fledged members soon. It's great to see fresh faces embracing the sport.

On the racing front, our quad smashed it at the Western Cape Champs Regatta, winning by a massive 250 metres! A fantastic result that proves we're a force to be reckoned with—even in a fine boat regatta. But we're not resting on our laurels. Training is already in full swing for the 27km Freedom Paddle, which starts and ends at Granger Bay, navigating around Robben Island, and this year marks our biggest entry yet, with both coastal boats and a gig boat taking on the challenge. We're also gearing up for the next big event—the Coastal Regatta at FBYC on 17 May 2025. Mark your calendars, because this one's going to be a great showcase of coastal rowing at its best.

A big shout out to our Lawhill students, who are going from strength to strength. We're now preparing to welcome a fresh cohort of Grade 10s after the Easter holidays.

In other exciting news, RSA Rowing Magazine has added a coastal section! This is a huge step forward in growing awareness and enthusiasm for coastal rowing.

Finally, on a more serious note, many of us attended the screening of *Out of the Blue*, a sobering reminder of the marine environment we share. The recent incident with a rabid seal and a snorkeler

(which also targeted two of our boats) has reinforced the need for awareness while out on the water. Thankfully, the distressed animal was euthanised, but let's all stay aware and safe out there.

See you on the water—big races ahead!

Estelle Wiid

***FBYC – Cape Coastal Rowing***

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### **Simons Town Marina Company**

I am happy to report that the marina is still at maximum capacity. This makes a strong argument to move ahead with the long-awaited D Marina.

Chantelle, our administrator, continues her game of Tetris, moving vessels around as various boats come out for maintenance, or go away to compete in events elsewhere. We appeal to marina owners to keep the Marina Office informed when selling (required in terms of MOI) - please bear in mind we have a list of people waiting to buy or rent.

Swings - we have cast new concrete mooring blocks, and the first ones are in - we hope to have another five swing moorings in during the next month. We also remind members that only STMC has the right to put in swing moorings.

Our divers under the expert guidance of Mike Maitland have been doing a great job of cleaning/inspecting/repairing the chains and blocks anchoring us to the seabed. Our existing 'breakwater' is still doing its job, but we are reluctant to spend money on it – rather continue to drive towards the D Marina.

The Hard – our main secondary source of income – has been busy with plenty of movement. We are attracting visitors from far afield with our facilities and group of sub-contractors offering fibre-glass work, stainless steel fabrication, chandlery, carpentry, engine maintenance, etc.

Paul Collet

***STMC – Marina Manager***

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### **Treasurer's Report**

At the AGM of 2024, I was elected as Treasurer. It was also the year that FBYC decided that the members would be better served by taking the running of the restaurant 'in-house'. The management of the club, and the basket of goods provided by the restaurant evolved to the fantastic menu seen today.

There were also numerous questions raised at the last AGM about club expenditure and depletion of cash reserves that was reported in the auditor's report for 2024 financial year. The club made a financial income deficit of R644 936 (Statement of comprehensive income) and a decrease of R1 381 292,00 in cash and cash equivalents (statement of cash flows). Indeed, the need for the restaurant and the club finances to be managed with greater control and efficiency has become imperative.

The mandate from the Finance Committee for this year is therefore two-fold. One, we aim to tighten our belts. This is reflected in a club budget that is more conservative than in previous years. Two, the club requires accurate financial reporting in order to cope with the added complexity of running the restaurant. We aim to gain more control by implementing better stock control systems, and bringing on out-sourced accounting services to broaden the team's skill set as the day-to-day accounting becomes more complex.

I am happy to report that thus far the club is projected to make R100 000.00 profit for the year. The restaurant is also profitable with a year-to-date net profit of R358 000,00 (as of December 2024).

The club will proceed into the year knowing that winter represents slower months for the restaurant's turnover. However, the club is growing, and the club's management has grown to meet the new demands. The Finance Committee will continue to streamline systems and financial reporting, and we are confident that 2025 will be a successful year and a spring-board for future years.

Jason Mills  
***FBYC- Treasurer***

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### **Safety At Sea Report**

The surveys are on the up side and to date Paul Dennett has issued around thirteen COFs and a couple of hull certificates. On my side I have done twelve and four hull inspections so it seems boat owners are becoming more awake to the fact that they need to stay compliant.

The signing in and out the register at the gate seems to be working well, just one or two boats with no names and still using there DTC as the boat's name which could be hard to track if something happens.

Phil Lamb  
***FBYC – Safety At Sea Portfolio***

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### **In-House Report**

Greetings All

It certainly has been a challenging year to date, however the results are certainly showing a healthy road going forward. A big thanks to Paul Dennett who has stepped into the role of Food & Beverage Manager, very ably supported by Chef Gary, who has done wonders with the menu and turnaround on the food end of things. Bar & Restaurant Net Profit so far this year till Dec was R358.000.00. To date the restaurant is clocking turnover figures for weekends exceeding the 100k mark on numerous occasions. Well done restaurant crew!

A great addition to the menu was the pizza oven lend from Phil Lamb and a resounding success for patrons and staff. Bon Appetit all.

Dan Pienaar  
***FBYC – In-House Portfolio***

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### **Entertainment Report**

This election year has seen a strong upswing in entertainment. We have had excellent quiz series, a Halloween Party, Karaoke Night, a children's Christmas Party and New Year's Eve was a great success.

The GREEFF Joker Draw and New Members Evening provide us with the opportunity to entertain on the first Friday of every month and to enjoy live music. The GREEFF Joker Draw is standing at 82K on 7 March. Tickets (R10) can be bought at the bar prior to the draw or on the night.

The start of monthly documentary viewings, started in February with "Out of the Blue" unravelling the mystery of the Cape Fur seal. This was an extremely successful event of 130 attendees. Next month's documentary is "Ours not Mine" on protecting our West Coast.

The restaurant has provided us with excellent service throughout the entertainment events.

We have created a new **FBYC Noticeboard WhatsApp Group**. The purpose of this group is to keep paid-up members updated on events and functions happening at the club. Please inquire at the Admin Office for further details.

Teresa Neasham

***FBYC – Entertainment Portfolio***

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