

Queensland Laser Association

Chairpersons Report 2017-2018

AGM Sunday 11/11/18

Hello all and welcome to our AGM. This year we are deferring the election of office bearers to the weekend of our State titles to give QLA members from outside of Brisbane the best opportunity to attend. A Special General Meeting will be held at that time. Deferring the whole AGM until that time is not preferred as there is a requirement for incorporated companies to present the end of year financial information in the current half of the year.

As a result, this is our second AGM this calendar year.

Nevertheless, since our last AGM in March at Humpybong we have made significant progress in a number of areas.

1. **Communications:** Since Annie Watson took on the role of Communications Officer she has created a much more dynamic communications environment. You will have noticed more email and Facebook notices to keep you informed and up to date with events and activities. Thanks Annie for your energy in this area.
2. **Travel Grants:** We have updated our Travel Grants policy and added a third type of grant being a Regional Travel grant to incentivize our members in regional areas who have to travel further to our regattas and other events than those of us in the south east corner. This Travel Grant is in addition to the Grants on offer for travel and attendance at the Australian Laser Championships and significant international regattas. In the past year we have awarded five International travel grants to QLA members.
3. **States Race brief:** Following last year States we have upgraded our Race brief to include more information and details on what the QLA expects from the organizing club in relation to holding our State Championships. This covers everything from entry, registration, racing and scoring and results. This should help both the host clubs, the QLA and competitors in future.
4. **Laser Promotion Activities:** In September we held a four hour workshop with the Executive Committee and a number of other invited people from clubs and elsewhere to gather ideas on how we can promote the Laser class in Queensland. Many ideas were floated and we settle on five areas to move forward on immediately.
 - a. **Women's Regatta:** The QLA is preparing to hold a two day Women's Regatta in February at DPSS. This event will include coaching, morning yoga, guest speaker and racing. Annie Watson is leading our team in pulling this together. We are expecting to confirm dates and activities in the near future.
 - b. **Transition to Laser:** We are making progress in holding a number of "Sail a Laser" days in conjunction with junior classes to assist junior sailors move up from their class to a Laser. Dan Self is initially discussing with the Optimist class about this and we hope to provide three Lasers on one day during Sail Brisbane where young sailors who are ready to move out of Optimists can take out a 4.7 Laser and their parents can talk to us about buying or trying a Laser. Once we have held this we will also look at other junior and development classes. Dan Self is leading this effort.
 - c. **Laser Camaraderie:** We are looking to build a stronger camaraderie between all Laser sailors, to assist with retention of sailors. To date this has been left to individuals at clubs and at the four QLA organized regattas. As a first step we are

implementing a buddy system for new Laser sailors. George Meikle has asked a person at eleven sailing clubs in SEQ to take on the onus of being or appointing a Laser Buddy to help any new Laser sailors. They will take a proactive role in making the new sailor welcome and comfortable with the world of Lasers. We will be instigating further initiatives over the coming seasons to strengthen the camaraderie between Laser sailors at different clubs.

- d. **Web Site and promotional material:** We have made some changes to our web site to make it more attractive and alluring with video links from the recent Open Nationals and Australian Masters and a summary of the advantages of owning and sailing a Laser. Additionally, we are planning to put advertisements in the RQYS newsletter to entice potential sailors to use the Club Lasers. These Laser were purchased recently by RQYS following lobbying by QLA members at the club.
- e. **Assistance to clubs:** A number of clubs have nominated the provision of 4.7 equipment as something that will help them get juniors and lighter sailors into Lasers. Currently we are looking at various avenues to source second hand masts and sails that we can subsidize into clubs. We have already helped SBSC with the purchase of a 4.7 rig and are currently looking for further rigs to buy.

QLA regattas

In addition to this weekend's River Titles we will be holding the:

- Metropolitan Championships at Southport Yacht Club on 2nd and 3rd February 2019
- Womens Regatta, Darling Point Sailing Squadron, 9th and 10th March 2019
- State championships at Lake Cootharaba on 30th and 31st March
- South Pacific Laser Masters Regatta at RQYS July (date TBA.)

Coaching

Over the past years we have sponsored coaching clinics at numerous clubs. We will continue to sponsor coaching to QLA members and other Laser sailors. Subject to sufficient entry numbers QLA will pay for a coach and their expenses for coaching at any Club in Queensland. This year we will be holding a coaching weekend camp at HYC.

Membership

We have seen a modest increase again this year and while membership numbers peak at around 125 around March coinciding with our State Championships we currently have just over 100 QLA members.

Financial

Our strong financial situation has strengthened this year as a result of profits from the two National championships

Michael Wilson

QLA Chairperson

11/11/2018