

Commodore's Report 2020

When I took over as Commodore last year, everything looked rosy. Events at the club were running at optimum and participation from members was high. In November 2019, we ran our biggest sailing cum social event; the Ambassadors Cup, and it was a success, as usual.

Unfortunately, all this was clouded this year by the Covid-19 pandemic. We managed to push the boundaries at the start of the year but when the Circuit Breaker was activated, everything stopped. The Club was closed and the whole world seemed to have come to a standstill.

We were rather fortunate that, around late April, we were given approval for boat owners to go to their boats to carry out maintenance works. Many boat owners took advantage of this approval to give the much-needed tender loving care to their boats and probably also to sniff the wind and get a much-needed breather.

As members of the Sailing Community we toed the line we were set. Fortunately, by mid-June the government had lifted the lockdown and launched Phase 2. We then saw the Club start to reactivate, as some restrictions were lifted, although observing safe distancing and the wearing of masks were made compulsory and became the new "norm". Our first race after the lifting was held on the 12 July. This Sunday Series race was very well attended. It was wonderful to see life coming back to the Club. However, I must to strongly emphasis the need for us to exercise all the necessary precautions, so that we can continue to be active yet keep our Club and everyone who enters its premises, safe. In the weeks that have followed that first race, I have been down to the Club to sail and race, and I have been heartened to see our members' enthusiastic participation.

With the current restrictions on gathering, we have decided to go virtual for our AGM. It is unfortunate that we cannot conduct the event in-person and have the usual buffet, drinks and get-together. A physical meeting has certain very definite advantages, but we felt it

was necessary to do what so many other Clubs are doing, and conduct our very first virtual AGM .We have adapted to meet the challenge presented by Covid-19, but we hope that we will be able to meet in person at the next AGM and engage in an activity now prohibited, namely intermingling.

Looking now to the future, I would like to announce that the Singapore Land Authority has approved our land lease for the next 3-years; 2021 to 2023. This again has given us more breathing space as we continue working towards the continued existence of our Club, which is in my unbiased opinion, the most beautiful sailing club in Singapore.

I am pleased that the Club is moving on with the many sailing programmes and activities that keep us going. At this juncture I would like to call on my colleagues to present the various section reports. But before they begin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Club members for their patience and support during these difficult times. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the management committee for their dedication and our staff for their hard work in keeping our flag flying high.

Deborah Barker

Commodore