

Rear Commodore (House & Grounds) Report 2023

As I presented at last year's AGM, much of the Club's existing infrastructure is in need of refurbishment and upgrading. With a membership of 661 persons, we have to utilize our limited resources as efficiently as possible to ensure that Changi Sailing Club remains relevant to members.

To recap, based on members' feedback, the Upgrades Sub-Committee which I chair is focused on executing on the short-list of priorities, divided into the following three areas:

1. **Jetty & Pontoons, including Crow's Nest** (led by Edwin Low): Our iconic jetty has been refurbished and pontoons have been replaced with new ones. We are evaluating the feasibility of installing water and electricity outlets on the pontoons.
2. **Main Building, Swimming Pool Area, Wooden Chalets (including the space underneath) & Bungalows** (led by Andy Willett & Desmond Wong): The main building is slated for the next phase of upgrades, including the Gents and Ladies, which are especially in need of attention. The Ward and Nanas Rooms have been upgraded together with the new staff office. Concurrently, the Information Technology infrastructure is being upgraded to keep pace with our Club's ongoing and future activities.
3. **Boat Yard/Workshop & Dinghy Park, including Landscaping** (led by James Sharpe): James and I are not the only ones dismayed that our boatyard and dinghy park continue to resemble a large junkyard instead of a lively and active sailing club. The neglected boats that litter the area are owned by members who have become inactive sailors but are still paying their dues. Sadly, given the very limited grounds of the Club, this inadvertently means that these inactive sailors are depriving members who are active sailors of the chance to own and park their boats at the Club. A Members' Forum was convened on 22 Jul 2023 to explore options for addressing these issues.

The Boat Yard & Dinghy Park were cleaned up from Dec 2021-Feb 2022 and again most recently on 7, 10 & 14 Jul 2023. This will be conducted regularly to keep the Club's premises tidy and ensure that we have no health and safety issues. It will also help towards more efficient use of our available space.

The unsafe state of the slipway/ramp next to the jetty was highlighted in the survey results. We are very clear about the repairs that need to be done. However, we are stymied because water drainage from the neighbourhood is diverted through a pipe that forms part of the ramp; we cannot arbitrarily seal it – but have not been able to get a government body* to assume responsibility for it and work with us on the repairs.

*A similar headache exists for the road leading into the Club's entrance.

The relevant authorities have been alerted to the deteriorating state of the retaining wall along the foreshore and we are awaiting their decision.

Like Singapore and much of the world, inflationary pressures and labour shortages continue to pose challenges and the Club is not immune. We are working hard to ameliorate increased costs as much as possible. Hopefully, market forces will plateau soon. The Club's electricity bill is circa S\$15,000/month, about S\$2,000/month lower than last year; nonetheless, all members and their guests are expected to use water and electricity responsibly.

Our new caterer, Georges, is working hard to enhance members' F&B experience by retaining the previous sous chef and wait staff, while expanding the menu offerings. Georges has also addressed feedback about the previous caterer's quality of coffee and ice cream.

Fortunately, we can continue to enjoy free winds for the best sailing in Singapore.

Andrew Chan

Rear-Commodore (H & G)