

Newsletter

Issue No. 11
January 2012

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



meridian

CONTACTS
Postal

PO Box 3261
Christchurch 8140

Telephone
+64 3 448 6319

Email
secretary@sir.org.nz

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chairman
James Sheehan
M 022 088 4543

Vice Chairman
Cliff Buchanan
H 03 249 8404

Secretary
Murray Petherick
M 027 433 6657

Treasurer
Anneke Molly
021 035 8023

Course Manager
Trevor Wilson
M 021 134 1073

Facilities
Catherine Wilson
M 021 172 1588

For Hire
Academy
Course
Lounge

Row Shoppe
Jeanette Petherick
03 448 6024

Ruataniwha Rowing

ROWING
NEW ZEALAND

South Island Rowing Incorporated

Financial Matters

Ruataniwha Rowing is now a significant operation, with many associated costs and expenses. Many people wonder why the charges set for the use of the course and facilities at the Meridian Rowing Complex are so high. Charges for the use of the Complex are used to cover overhead and general operating expenses such as power, telephone, waste collection and disposal, insurance and rates, maintenance and loan repayments, plus aspects of development that are necessary from time to time. Ruataniwha rowing is a strictly 'not for profit' organisation and all revenue is spent operating and improving the Complex.

Some of these costs are met by the generous sponsorship of Meridian, and others, and from revenue from the Lakeside Café and the Row Shoppe, but the balance inevitably has to be raised from various hire and levy charges. In addition to this Ruataniwha Rowing seeks grants, from local and national Trusts, to assist with funding appropriate, specific projects to replace, update or improve the facilities.

We recently received a generous grant of \$15,000 from Trust Aoraki to assist with purchasing a new outboard motor to replace the ageing and unreliable motor on the larger AON safety boat.



The rescue boat in action

Another grant has been sought for a mobile 'start system' that will wirelessly trigger the timing computers when we have to start races at places other than for the full 2000m course. This is an important issue when we require race results or progressions to be assessed on times rather than on placings.

A further grant is being sought to assist with the purchase of new dining furniture for the Solveig McRae lounge. The existing furniture is not coping well with the demands placed on it by the increasingly high usage from (boisterous teenagers) during training camps and similar functions and more robust furniture is required.



JS Apparel



On the matter of money it has been decided that clubs and schools are to be charged an amenity fee for the use of the facilities during non-resident training camps and similar situations. This applies particularly to the boat park toilets, the boat racks and other related site facilities. At such times the toilets and other facilities are available for use and there is a significant amount of time and cost involved in servicing and maintaining these facilities. The Executive believes it is reasonable that a 'user pays' approach is applied to the use of these facilities.

Site Development

As time and manpower allows work is continuing on a number of aspects of the course and the site. Over the Christmas break the distance markers on the course were changed to comply with FISA's current requirements and a lot of work has also been carried out by Mike Hennessey, and others, to prepare the 'new' buildings for painting. The painting is to be completed this season to meet District Council building consent requirements.



The goblin that was flushed from the scrub while Trevor and James were changing the distance markers on The Island... looks friendly enough!

The next formal working bee is planned for the 4th, 5th and 6th of February so if you are able to come and assist please advise Trevor accordingly. All offers of assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Safety and Rules

Another reminder!!! Coaches and managers please remember that in conjunction with any regatta held at Ruataniwha, apart from Nationals and Maadi Cup (where different requirements will apply), every participating club or school is required to be represented at the pre-race safety briefing. The briefings are held in the Solveig McRae lounge commencing one hour before the start of racing on Saturday morning. Non-attendance may preclude your club or school from participating in the regatta.



Did you know?

THAT... NZRA Rules of Racing 11.2 states "Undergarments may be worn uniformly under the official uniform, provided that *the colour of the undergarment is the same as the body of the official uniform or plain white*".

On cooler days, and typically as we approach the later part of the season, we tend to see a proliferation of colours of undergarments, (and some over garments too!). Rowers should expect the above rule to be enforced at the South Island Schools Regatta and at Maadi Cup and should dress accordingly.

AND.... NZRA Rules of Racing 23.3 states "Crews shall in no circumstance cause themselves to be followed during the race by other boats *or receive advice or instructions other than from authorised race officials*."

In simple terms this means crews are not permitted to communicate with any other person during the race, either verbally by voice, phone or radio, or by other signals. Possession of items such as radios or cell phones by members of a crew, even if they are not turned on, is likely to result in the crew being disqualified from the race, and possibly the regatta.

In respect of the matter of "Rules" it is worth reiterating that all coaches and team officials should be familiar with, and understand, the "Rules of Racing". These can be downloaded from the Rowing NZ website, and in the case of school rowing from the NZSSRA website. Your lack of knowledge or understanding of relevant rules could cost one of your crews a placing, or perhaps a medal; make sure that doesn't happen to you!

Canine Friends

We are seeing an increasing number of pet dogs being brought to the complex, particularly during regattas. While this is not necessarily a problem all dog owners are reminded that while at the complex all dogs are required to be on appropriate leashes and not permitted to run free. As a matter of good housekeeping owners are expected to tidy up any mess left by their dog to keep our site clean and to avoid nuisance to other visitors. If dogs need to be let free for exercise please take them away from the complex to do this.

Maadi Cup

As we draw closer to Maadi Cup preparations are progressing towards having all the necessary measures in place to ensure the regatta runs smoothly and effectively. One aspect of this is that we will require a large number of volunteers to attend to a variety of tasks leading into and during the regatta. If you expect to be able to assist, in whatever role, please contact Murray (secretary) by email or phone, as noted on the front sheet of the newsletter.

There is still a number of tent and stall sites available so if you wish to book a site, or confirm an existing booking, please contact Trevor by email at 'caretaker@sir.org.nz'. Please note that site bookings made for the last Maadi Cup at Ruataniwha have not necessarily been "rolled over" so all prospective site holders should check bookings with Trevor.

Race sponsorship for the MAADI Cup races is available. Any Company or individual wishing to sponsor a race should contact Murray (secretary) by email or phone, as noted on the front sheet of the newsletter.



Boat Holders

An important group amongst our regatta helpers is the group of boat holders. This is a group of local Twizel boys and girls who, under the watch of Boris (David Morris-Bamber), spend long hours helping to make our regattas run properly through their work holding and aligning boats at the start. This season the group includes Tequila Wilson, Rosie Sreat, Mikhayla Cole, Finnlay Allerston, Bede Wright, Caleb McFelin, Sean Muir, Rearne Officer, Shekinah Mills, Niamh Summers, Zane Morris-Bamber, John McCambridge, Dhugald Spry, Thomas Rush, Aidan Shelley, Taane Whetu, Roshni Crow, Josh Sheridan, Emily Carpenter, Gideon Thompson, Rebecca Doherty and Mercedes McCambridge.



Boat holders relaxing between races.

Those who have experienced the need to free-start races, particularly in rougher water, will appreciate how important the boat holders are and what a good job they do. Thanks boat holders!!

Motor Vehicles and Excessive Speed

Concern has been growing regarding the speed at which some vehicles travel on the roads within the complex. For safety reasons the permitted speed on these roads is significantly reduced but too often it is not observed by motorists. At times when the complex is open to the public the roads are legally deemed to be public roads, and as such can be formally policed by the NZ Police traffic patrols.

In the interests of safety, and particularly because there are so many pedestrians and cyclists on the site during regattas, motorists are required to observe the speed limits and to drive according to the prevailing conditions. If excess speed continues to be a problem it may be necessary to give consideration to installing speed humps to control traffic speed. This is obviously not a desirable option but will be considered if deemed necessary.

Please also note that when the barrier arms are in place across the roads they are only to be opened by Ruataniwha Rowing officials for official purposes.



JS Apparel



Regattas and Weather

The recent Otago Championships enjoyed great racing weather and the race programme was virtually completed as per programme. Great when that happens!!

Unfortunately the weather during the Canterbury Championships was not as settled and caused some significant disruptions to the race programme. Some of the disruption was mitigated, to some extent, by racing some races over 1000 metres although this is always considered to be a less than ideal option.

Compiling a race programme is a complicated exercise which some of you will appreciate, but others may not. Once the number and classes of the races to be included in the programme has been determined the races must be scheduled in a manner and sequence that takes due account of a number of factors including time intervals between races in which the various age and gender groups may reasonably be expected to wish to enter and the realistic minimum turn round times for boats that will be required in those various races.

Adjusting race programmes or sequences during the course of a two day regatta, where significant time constraints exist, is always difficult. This is particularly so when the programme for the first day cannot be completed within that day. In most instances it is simply not possible to swap or interchange races at will without impacting adversely on at least some of those in the affected races. As time progresses through the regatta any possible options for altering the race sequence also diminish.

In some instances, in order to avoid completely halting the regatta and depending on the particular situation, it may be considered appropriate to temporarily withhold one race, or set of heats, in order to allow a different class to continue the regatta. This was done during the Canterbury Champs on Saturday when some of the age group small boat heats were withheld due to unsuitable water conditions but other events involving larger boats continued to race. While this approach may allow the regatta to continue where it would otherwise have been put 'on hold' it does mean that some way has to be found to re-include the missed races back into the race schedule at a time when the rowers and boats will be available, and without upsetting other events close to that time.

At the Canterbury Champs further time was lost through Sunday morning and after due consideration the regatta committee decided to withdraw all remaining age group races in favour of the non age group and open grade races. The rationale behind this was that the Canterbury Champs is one of the last opportunities for crews attending the New Zealand National Champs to participate in any competitive racing whereas age group (school) rowers still have another regatta to look forward to leading into Maadi Cup. It is acknowledged that this decision was not well received by many, regardless of whether the reasons behind it were fully understood, but it must be stated that it was a considered decision taken by experienced race officials and made in light of the available information and the situation that prevailed at the time.

It is important that coaches, managers, rowers and supporters understand that regattas at Ruataniwha are run by experienced officials and any decisions regarding altering or re-scheduling regatta programmes are made with the best interests of the rowers in mind, and take account of all the relevant information available at the time.

When re-scheduling is required you may not like or appreciate the outcome but perhaps, in such circumstances, you could stop and think, "If it was mine to make what decision would I have made under these circumstances?"





JS Apparel



Row Shoppe

The Row Shoppe, The Row Shoppe, where everyone gets a bargain!! (with apologies to the big red shed).

Jeanette currently has a great range of stock with gear and garments to suit all tastes and requirements.



A sample of the gear available from the Row Shoppe.

Remember that all proceeds from the Shoppe go towards supporting and enhancing rowing at Ruataniwha. Remember also that if you should happen to find a similar product elsewhere....don't buy it!! Support the Row Shoppe because it supports you!!!

And Finally an Important Acknowledgement

Behind the scenes Linda and Philip Bell do a great job preparing some of our publications.

For some time now Linda has prepared and formatted our regatta programme booklets, including the design of the covers. Race details are prepared by Christine Moffat, following the receipt of entries, and these are then passed on to Linda for formatting and inclusion in the booklet. Linda then finalises the design and layout of the booklet and arranges printing. All this is done in the few days between closing of entries and the start of the regatta.

Philip also arranges a lot of other publications, including various signs and posters found around the Meridian Rowing Complex, but the one most will be familiar with is the periodic newsletter that Philip started a couple of seasons ago. Although roles have changed Philip is still called on to use his expertise to format the raw copy I present to him and prepare the newsletter for distribution. You may not always appreciate the content of the newsletter but the presentation is great!!

Thanks to you both for your on-going support of Ruataniwha Rowing.

Generating Champions



meridian