

Contacts

PO Box 3261
Christchurch
Email

Secretary@sir.org.nz

Chairman

C Buchanan
H 3 249 8404

Secretary

P Bell
H 3 358 9929
M 27 432 5001

Course Manager

T Wilson
M 21 134 1073

Complex

T 3 435 0628
F 3 435 0627

Facilities

Course Hire
Kitchen /Lounge Hire
Souvenir Sales

Sponsors

Clark Boyce
incorporating
bensenman murfit

Level 1, 104
Victoria Street
PO Box 12299
Christchurch, New
Zealand



Jim Little
Upholstery



January 2009

Newsletter

The first regatta of the season has been and gone and from all accounts it was a remarkably successful one. The second one also went well. The results are available from the RNZ web site. As is usual, the first regatta finds many of the operational problems with the facilities and this year was little different. Even the second regatta gave rise to more issues that needed resolving



The photo above shows the course during the Otago Championships. The one below is the same view but two weeks later at the Canterbury Championship Regatta.



meridian

Principal Sponsor

Contacts

PO Box 3261
Christchurch

Email

Secretary@sir.org.nz

Chairman

C Buchanan
H 3 249 8404

Secretary

P Bell
H 3 358 9929
M 27 432 5001

Course Manager

T Wilson
M 21 134 1073

Complex

T 3 435 0628
F 3 435 0627

Facilities

Course Hire
Kitchen /Lounge Hire
Souvenir Sales

Sponsors



Level 1, 104
Victoria Street
PO Box 12299
Christchurch, New
Zealand



Jim Little
Upholstery



January 2009

Newsletter

We did not expect problems with the newly refurbished start trolleys. We did expect a few radio problems but they seemed to work okay. The same was true for the PA system. The new computers seemed to work okay but the photo-copiers gave serious trouble and we are grateful for the assistance given by Fuji Xerox in that regard.

We have identified a few danger areas and these will need to be addressed in the coming weeks. However, the water is good and we do hope that everyone enjoys the upcoming regattas.

Didymo

There has been little recent mention of the Didymo problem and it seems that for many this problem has gone away. This is simply not true...it is more of a problem now as it ever was. The current rains has meant there is a lot more water flowing and we have seen rafts of Didymo floating down the lake. Trevor has told us that some of the buoys have it growing from them. The lane wires are 3mm diameter Kevlar but one section recently examined had grown to 15mm diameter with Didymo. It was noted that even the hull of the work barge had some Didymo on it. Didymo is still very much with us.

A better illustration concerns the start trolleys. At the Otago Champs it was found that the boatholders could get no traction and the trolleys could not be wound out very well at all. A diver went in to investigate because all the trolleys had been refurbished over the winter period. He found that there had been a build up of Didymo under the scrapers that clear the rails of stones. This in turn lifted the drive wheels of the trolley and hence the lack of traction.

It is essential that all equipment and clothing that has been in the lake is washed in an appropriate solution before it is taken away from the lake.

Sponsors

Few people appreciate the value derived from our sponsors. South Island rowing is fortunate to have such sponsors and we appreciated their efforts. Those mentioned on the left hand side of this newsletter have been very generous in their support of South Island Rowing. We ask that you do your part by supporting them in your normal activities.

While there have been some approaches about sponsoring races, we still have a few races that require sponsors. If you wish to sponsor a race at the National Championship Regatta, please contact F Strachan or T Wilson. There are several sponsorship packages that can be made available and one can certainly be tailored to suit your circumstances.

Meridian Function

Recently there was a function hosted by our Principal Sponsor, Meridian. The function was well attended and appreciated by all. Athol Earl, the Chairman of Canterbury Rowing chaired the gathering and introduced Ken Smales who spoke of the synergy rowing has with the generation of Electricity and the ongoing partnership that SIR has with Meridian.



Principal Sponsor

Contacts

PO Box 3261
Christchurch
Email

Secretary@sir.org.nz

Chairman

C Buchanan
H 3 249 8404

Secretary

P Bell
H 3 358 9929
M 27 432 5001

Course Manager

T Wilson
M 21 134 1073

Complex

T 3 435 0628
F 3 435 0627

Facilities

Course Hire
Kitchen /Lounge Hire
Souvenir Sales

Sponsors



January 2009

Newsletter

Max Smith was also in attendance and as the creator of the complex, his forethought and actions are still recognised today.



Ms Jacqui Dean the local Member of Parliament also commented on the partnership. She reiterated the common thought from the local Mayors about the value of volunteers. It appears that whole fabric of our society is dependent on Volunteers. It is important that volunteers are appreciated and their work recognised.



Presentations were made to the Local Associations and SIR.

SIR responded to Meridian with a presentation of its own.



New Finish System

For the last four years we have been looking for a better timing system as the old one was well passed it use by date. We also needed a replacement regatta management program and this aspect was common to both SIR and KRI. Following research by RNZ (Kevin Strickland) and some assistance from our local people a new Management program was decided upon. This was fully used for the Canterbury Championship Regatta and while there are a few teething problems the overall progress with implementation is well ahead of schedule.

As the camera and the timing system also needed replacement RNZ facilitated the trial of a system supplied by the Brook Group. The photo finish system is "FinishLynx". This system was implemented at the Canterbury Champs and we are grateful to Brian Davidson for coming over from Australia to facilitate the installation. In actual fact we had no easy way of using the old system for this regatta so it just had to work with a minimum of problems.



While it was new for us the ease of implementation was truly remarkable. Those who were at the regatta were able to see the pictures and the close finishes that were achieved. While we can improve the system further, the initial results were an order of magnitude better that the old system.

Water Safety

Many will be aware of the safety requirements on Lake Ruataniwha. There are signs showing which areas can be used for the various water based activities. This Lake currently is a "shared" activity lake and all users must obey the requirements of the Local Authority's (ECAN) Bylaws which encompass the requirements of MSA91.



meridian

Principal Sponsor

Contacts

PO Box 3261
Christchurch

Email

Secretary@sir.org.nz

Chairman

C Buchanan
H 3 249 8404

Secretary

P Bell
H 3 358 9929
M 27 432 5001

Course Manager

T Wilson
M 21 134 1073

Complex

T 3 435 0628
F 3 435 0627

Facilities

Course Hire
Kitchen /Lounge Hire
Souvenir Sales

Sponsors



incorporating
benseman murfitt

Level 1, 104
Victoria Street
PO Box 12299
Christchurch, New
Zealand



Jim Little
Upholstery



January 2009

Newsletter

It is very easy to be critical of the power boat users but all users including those from the rowing community must follow the rules.

There have been a number of complaints made against rowers who are not following the bylaws. It is particularly disturbing to read that some well known and experienced Coaches are among the culprits. All need to realise that by rowing in areas reserved for other activities is against the Bylaws and attracts a fine. The same is true for those violating MSA91.

(Coaches on the water should wear a life jacket and carry PFD'S). Weather like that shown on the right can very quickly change.

The ECAN Rangers have indicated they intend to crack down in this area because of very real safety concerns.



Use of Facilities

The course is available for use most of the year for recreational training. There are a number of groups using the facilities such as the toilets and we welcome this as it ensures the quality is maintained and any malfunctions can be reported. However, we have had some instances where we know rowers have been using the facilities and there has been unreported damage.

It has been very interesting to observe that when confronted with this the first reaction is to blame someone else. The SIR policy is to charge those who damage the facilities as our stakeholders feel it is unfair to have to increase regatta entry fees and course hire fees because of the wilful damage by our members.

In spite of this situation SIR is proceeding with the new toilet block. The excavation shown on the right depicts the foundation of the extension which is due for completion in March.



Accommodation

There is some limited accommodation available at the complex that can be used by members at working bees and for some Officials. This is not available for friends etc and except for those occasions where this is subsidised, a payment will be required to cover the costs to SIR. Currently Catherine records the person nights used and proposes to invoice the individuals concerned at the end of the season. The per person night rate will be \$5.



meridian

Principal Sponsor