

President's Report:

Thank you all for attending the AGM today, our first one in person since 2019. Thank you as well to the Commodore and Members of RHADC for hosting us. I would also like to thank the Board for supporting our efforts to develop Sailing in Bermuda and the support our constituents and me, specifically. There are also many others who are not Board members but do a lot for sailing in Bermuda and we thank all those volunteers for their efforts. Special thanks also to Lettie for her behind the scenes work with D'Arcey on the books and the two of them keeping all our paperwork current for charity status, registrar, Youth and Sport, etc. Thank you too to Lesley Wollman for Honourary Secretary duties the last few years.

There is a lot of time and effort that goes into maintaining our ties with the Bermuda Olympic Association (BOA), Youth & Sport, the ANSGB, World Sailing (WS), other MNAs and others to maximize sailing's exposure to them, to garner support from them and to work with them to develop Bermuda sailing friendly policies. We continue to develop these relationships – most recently Mark Clarke became a member of the ANSGB board – and we are working to get representation at the BOA at the upcoming AGM. I was at the mid-year meetings of WS representing Group 'O' (24 nations of the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico) at Council and just last week Lettie and I were in Abu Dhabi again for the WS AGM where we made good connections, joined many committee meetings, had many discussions and hope to have some opportunities from WS coming to Bermuda in the coming years. More details on that later.

Sailing Highlights

It has been a busy year for Bermuda sailors, both on-island and off-island. The Annapolis-to-Bermuda and Newport Bermuda Races were back after being cancelled for 2020. Both successful events with many old and new faces visiting the island. Congratulations to both Clubs and their partners for pulling off these events. Many of our younger sailors have been busy in events from Australia to Brazil to Europe to Mexico to Switzerland and of course to the US and Canada among many other countries and events.

Too many to speak to them all but I will upload the ones that we are aware of on the www.sailing.bm website shortly. Highlights would be:

- Adriana Penruddocke qualifying Bermuda for the Pan Am games with her **3rd overall, 2nd Female** in a fleet of 118 at the ILCA North American's
- Also in the ILCA 6 Nicole Stovell and Sebastian Kempe each **won** the UK Youth Nationals in May
- Following his **first**-place finish at the 2021 WS Youth World Championships in Oman in December Sebastian followed that up with a **second** place in July this year in difficult conditions in The Hague
- Benn Smith finished **2nd** of 53 at the ILCA 7 US Nationals

Not just in the ILCAs but many other achievements by sailors in Optimists, 29er, Waszp, High School programs in the US and UK, Offshore, IODs and others. Much of the Board's activities is getting and managing and distributing funds for many of these sailors. This funding is in excess of \$50,000 to 20+ different sailors over multiple events since May of last year. Most of this funding has gone to ILCA events and sailors, as that is where most of our athletes currently compete. We have also upped some contributions to the Optimist sailors as BODA has not had Christmas Tree funding for the last two years.

That funding generally comes from Government currently, where this year Youth & Sport increased their contributions to \$50,000 for this fiscal year from \$20,000 in the 20/21 fiscal year. Benn Smith also receives Elite 'C' funding through the BOA which flows through the BSA and Sebastian Kempe also received NJASP funds for the Youth Worlds the last two years – clearly a good investment.

Christmas Trees

With regards to Christmas Trees this year we have not been able to get the tree program back up and running. Our longtime tree supplier sold their business to another party and that party isn't interested in continuing to supply trees to us. We have been looking for an alternate supplier but with added GOV.BM restrictions and limited supply we have not yet sourced a supplier. We are working to get this program back on track as we know it is important for many aspects of sailing in Bermuda.

Website & Social Media

We have upped our social media and developed the website further. I urge you to sign up for any newsfeeds by adding your e-mail to Mailing List the bottom of the '[Contacts](#)' page on www.sailing.bm. We will continue to develop the website and welcome any feedback. The BSA also has [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). If there is content that we may have missed but that you feel is suitable, please feel free to forward to any one of the Board or to info@sailing.bm.

Of course, if you have been to any of the above sites and or read the documents here you will have noticed that the BSA has had a refresh to the logo. Thank you to **Somers and Megan Kempe** for driving this update and giving us a refreshed presence.

2023 To Do's

As part of this year's goal we continued to finetune the Sailor Qualification standards. Moving away from single event qualification standards to a rolling standard with more events included. We hope this allows individuals, particularly those individuals not based in Bermuda and for those in classes with multiple sailors competing for events. There have been ongoing modifications, and hopefully improvements, in advance of a busy 2023 qualification year.

There are a series of key events coming up next year in the youth and senior categories, particularly in advance of the 2024 Olympics in Marseille. We are actively working with all athletes helping them to pursue their individual programs.

Other priority items for 2023 include a new strategic plan, Race Officials development, BSA officer transition planning and documentation, website development, managing qualifications for various events and making the most of all opportunities through WS and elsewhere for our athletes.

Closing

We will discuss Constitutional changes in a few moments, but we would appreciate your support on the changes. We also have two Board members up for renewal tonight – Somers Cooper and Willie Forbes. We have had no other nominees and these two are valuable members of the Board and represent their immediate constituents in addition to sailing in Bermuda well and we hope that you support their re-election.

The representatives on the Board are your voice – whether it be your Club or Class or Association. I encourage you to work with them if you have questions or insights they can bring to the Board and we are happy to hear from you.

Regards,

Tom C