

Affiliation to Yachting New Zealand

Dear Members

Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) has recently changed its method for calculating the affiliation fee due from member clubs. The previous arrangement calculated a fee based on the number of Senior Equivalent Members and allowed for a rebate for non-sailing members (the SEM system). This system worked for Plimmerton Boating Club and other clubs with large numbers of non-sailing members. The annual cost to our Club was around \$4,000 per annum.

YNZ has been concerned for some time that the SEM system did not provide it with sufficient revenue and was open to manipulation by member clubs. Last year the Board of YNZ proposed moving to a system of a single fee to be levied on all members of affiliated clubs. The proposal was adopted by member clubs at last year's YNZ AGM with the per member fee set at \$22.50 + GST. For family memberships the fee is applied to each member of the family (the flat fee system).

The flat fee system does not work for clubs such as ours where the sailing members make up a relatively small proportion of total membership. The financial impact for our Club is to increase our YNZ levy to over \$18,000 per annum. Prior to the adoption of the flat fee system members of the Committee had several meetings with the Chief Executive and Chairman of YNZ to express our opposition to the changes, but we were unsuccessful in changing their minds.

Being affiliated to YNZ provides a number of benefits to the sailing members of our Club. Principally these are threefold:

- the ability to use the Racing Rules of Sailing in our Club racing,
- the services and support of the YNZ Regional Support Officer Wayne Holdt; and
- being able to hold and participate in national regattas.

YNZ also promote other services they offer such as health and safety systems, purchasing groups and advocacy.

Members of the Committee recently had an informal discussion about the impact of the adoption of the flat fee system on the Club finances. We also considered alternative ways in

which we could cater for our sailing members. The general view was that the flat fee system unfairly impacts on mixed member clubs such as ours and that it was unfair to expect non-sailing members to pay a fee for a sporting body in which they have no interest. The increase in affiliation fees would have a significant adverse effect on Club finances at a time when we face other significant expenses such as the breakwater and jetty repair.

However, the committee also recognised that the Club had been a member of YNZ for many years and had a long history of competitive sailing. It is important for our sailors, and in particular our growing junior fleet, that we remain affiliated to YNZ.

We agreed that it was not practical or desirable to split the Club into sailing and non-sailing clubs. One solution proposed was that the Club resign as a member of YNZ and that the existing Sailing Academy (which currently runs the junior sailing) be incorporated and apply to join YNZ. All sailors (senior and junior) would join and pay a fee to the Sailing Academy which would be passed onto YNZ. All racing would be carried out under the auspices of the Sailing Academy. Members of the Sailing Academy would also need to be members of the Club in order to use the Club facilities. This proposal allows for the sailors to contribute to YNZ, run club racing and participate in national sailing events.

Unfortunately we have no idea whether YNZ will accept the Academy's application. We are hopeful that, as long as the Academy ticks all the boxes in respect of that application, they will recognise that we are genuinely looking for a way to continue to participate in, and support, yachting in New Zealand.

I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss the above with interested members.

Regards

Andy Robertshawe

On behalf of the Committee.