



September 2008

# Lubberline

➤ State of the Nation

*I don't often get all reflective – not in my nature – but as I write this, millions of people are being evacuated out of the New Orleans area that Mother Nature is preparing to savage, and millions are homeless in northern India because of flooding (they're commandeering private boats my dog!) etc etc etc. Makes our losing a few of our winter races due to "inclement weather" look almost tolerable!*

**Remember to pay ur subs by 30/09/2008**  
**to get the lovely discount.**



I don't know how many of you happy readers out there (assuming - very presumptuous of me! - that you've got this far in your reading - and that ur happy!) have had the opportunity to put together a club newsletter. Well from my point of view it can be quite a humbling experience. You might expect that there's so much script & pix coming at you for publication that the editor is in the difficult position of saying "OK, that will fit in, but that article doesn't quite cut the mustard". Almost like playing Dog (or should that be God). Almost correct, but not quite!! That really would be a lovely state of affairs. T'is winter tho'. I know UR all holding back!!! Send me scrip. Send me pix. Send me any bleeding thing!! I nundate me!! I can hack it!! That's not to say that what we have here, in this issue, is not up to speed - far from it - enjoy.

**REMEMBER**

[Lubberline@ltyc.org.nz](mailto:Lubberline@ltyc.org.nz)  
Submissions very welcome

**Remember you can pay ur subs on line!! Even your editor can do it. Go to <http://www.ltyc.org.nz/> and deal to it. Under the "membership" tab. Now would be good!!**

➤ [Commodore's Comment](#)

Crickey! The blossoms are out and Seagar Ice Breaker Series around the corner. It's been a hectic few months for the committee as we prepare for the season ahead.

The Handbook is still in preparation. It's not as easy as it looks to put it all together! But keep those subs rolling in, and we'll get it out to you asap.

Belinda has been a real dynamo putting a 420's team sailing programme together. She deserves full support from, and participation by, our centreboard sailors who are moving up from Opti's.

Speaking of Optis, LTYC are hosting the North Island Opti Champs on Sat/Sun November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. That will be the first regatta of three Centreboard and two Trailer Sailer regattas scheduled for the season ahead. We're going to need your help!

In that vein, the club hosted a Race Management Seminar in July, and a Club Instructors' Course in August. From the good attendance of LTYC members, we have a strong team to conduct successful regattas, and run a top class Learn to Sail programme.

Rob McKnight has a very extensive Learn To Sail programme arranged, for Adults as well as littlies I might add. We are very pleased to have had **UNISON** confirm their sponsorship for this season.

We have also received a grant from South Auckland Charitable Trust, which will be applied to the purchase of a new outboard for P5. The 25hp from P5 will go on to P7, replacing the 15hp one. *That's awesome. The rescue boats will now be able to keep up with the Optimists!* – Ed.

Sean Harris will present his plan for the centreboard lounge development, in early September (I've had a sneak preview, and it is exciting).

Murray Thomas and Pete Roberts have been assiduously applying the final paintwork to P2, at the end of a major hull and engine maintenance programme for the vessel.

Wednesday night sailing starts October 1, with Opening Day October 19th, diary it now.

The club recently honoured three of our senior and long standing members with well deserved Life Membership. Dave Brett, Dave Jalfon, Bernie Dale, I thank you for years of support and participation in the club. Further, the club has a Patron again. Albert Pointon, who will be known to many, has graciously accepted the role. Albert has been associated with the club and sailing for many years, so has a close understanding of the club's history and role in the community. Happy Sailing *PJ*

➤ [AGM](#)

Well, another AGM has come and gone. As you have no doubt worked out from the above article, PJ (Pete) Webb was returned as Commodore, and we have a repeat of the Pete's



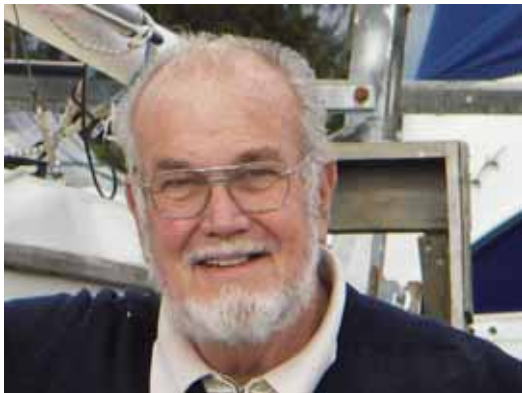
helping Pete, Pete Roberts as Vice and Pete Nanks as Rear. Role reversal. So it's all good. And the subs only went up in line with inflation as determined by the Labour Government. But the exciting bits were.....

o [New Life Members.....](#)

Dave Brett's association with the Lake Taupo Yacht Club goes back over 40 years. Dave joined our club as a centreboard sailor sailing a cherub, having sailed since childhood beginning with a P class sailing with the Gisborne yacht club. I first met Dave and Dale in the late 1980s and it was they who introduced me to the sport as crew on Gingerbread Man. More important to me than their introduction to sailing was their demonstration of what sports clubs can be and the personal values they have. It is not about "belonging" to a sportsclub it is about being "involved". Dave and Dale and their children have consistently sailed and supported and been actively involved with the club over many years. In the early 1990's Dave was Vice Commodore of the club at the time when club members ran the bar for all functions on a voluntary basis. This was a huge commitment that many earlier members made and is probably not even thought about today. In more recent times Dave headed the team which constructed the Mirror Dinghys.



While the nomination for Life membership was for Dave, he shares this with Dale, one of the good woman behind every good man. A worthy recipient. [Dean Roe](#)



Bernie Dale has been a member of the Lake Taupo Yacht Club for over 35 years. In his time at the Yacht Club he has contributed to the club in many different ways. He spent several years on the committee, he helped organise regattas for the club, he hand crafted 'P6' Ena Seagar. When the club bought P2, he retro fitted it so that it was more suitable for club use as a work boat. Bernie also built some of the yachts which still sail in the club today. These have not only gained club honours, but also national titles. Bernie has also helped with the profits of the club by being a regular at bar over the years!

He has contributed an enormous amount of time to the club to help it grow and stand where it is now. [Tim Simpson](#)

For more than 25 years, Lake Taupo Yacht Club has benefited from the support of Dave Jalfon. Over those years, he has participated fully in sailing events, both as a worthy competitor, and in conducting regattas. He has also shared his extensive sailing experiences with many, in a style that underscores his genial personality. But beyond that, Dave has quietly put in significant, mostly unnoticed, service to the club. For it has been Dave, without being asked, who weeded gardens, trimmed shrubbery, painted poles and also the



magnificent LTYC sign and large anchor which grace the club entrance. Dave served the club on committee in the 80's and as Commodore in 1985. It is most fitting for the club membership to have recognised Dave's contribution at the 2008 AGM, by bestowing the honour of Life Membership. We wish him many more seasons of enjoyable sailing with us.

*PJ Webb*

o ***AND a new Patron!***



The position of Patron of Lake Taupo Yacht Club is not bestowed lightly. It befits a person of wisdom and integrity who is, essentially, a friend of the club. Albert Pointon has had an association with LTYC for many years. He has been a member, as have his family and grandchildren from time to time.

Albert Pointon will be well known to many members, as a prominent Taupo businessman. He has seen Taupo grow from dusty roads to burgeoning cityhood. Over those years he has joined in LTYC sailing events, sailed his own yachts and been active in the boating community. Truly a man of stature.

The club is honoured that Albert Pointon has seen fit to accept the role of Patron.

➤ ***Learn to Sail (LTS)***

Yes, LTS is just around the corner, starting the week Monday 03/11/08, LTYC is offering the Unison Learn to Sail programme on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. LTS is offered from the basics through to Learn to Race. The huge support we get from Unison and the Opti sponsors allows us to offer a fantastic affordable programme over the summer months. The support we receive from the volunteer instructors is greatly appreciated and without their support and enthusiasm there would be no LTS. Pass the word, LTS will soon be here... contact Rob McKnight 027 444 2420 or 376 8999 or [rob@mcknight.co.nz](mailto:rob@mcknight.co.nz)

LTYC has three new qualified instructors – congratulations to Steve Bowden, Thea DePetris and Rob McKnight, all getting their ticket as YNZ Club Instructors.

➤ ***And the next Step - this is from an Aussie coach, "Adrian"***

***GET BACK TO BASICS....***

Last year I had the chance to work with Russell Coutts at the Melges 24 Worlds in Florida where we had a three boat programme and I was running the coaching side of things for "Team Pegasus".

After the first training day the group of twenty plus team members gathered for a video debrief I had prepared from the day on the water. As I looked around the room I saw Olympic Medallists, World Champions, a guy who had won three America's Cups. I had to make sure I knew what I was talking about and did not get all the medals tangled in a knot.

I kept the debrief very simple and to the point and on completion asked Coutts if he would like to add anything as it was his first day at "Team Pegasus".

*The room went deadly silent as the master of sailing went to speak. We were all expecting some kind of huge technical speech. All eyes were fixed on the man!!!*

*"Gee I didn't think Aussies knew that much about Yachting!" Coutts said as the room broke up in laughter.*

He then went on to explain that we should forget about all this technical talk about rig tensions, mainsail designs etc. and just sail the boat flat or at a constant angle of heel and hold the tiller straight.

**Wow... The world's best sailor was telling us all to just hold the tiller straight and keep the boat flat? Interesting...**

"As I travel, coach and teach in boat parks around the world I hear too many Mums and Dads talk about what they need to buy for Little Johnny to enable him to win a Club Championships. They spend all their time and money on getting the hottest gear however when Little Johnny hits the water he can't keep his boat flat or tiller straight, all because the basics of sailing have been forgotten.

Other sports such as swimming, football, athletics, etc all spend 95% of their training time perfecting the basic skills needed to play the game. As sailors we spend 95 % of our time thinking about the new piece of equipment that can cost in excess of \$200 that will make the boat go faster.

If you do not perfect the basic skills you can never play the chess game.

You can only play the chess game if you have perfected the basic skills, too many focus on what they spend rather than on what is going to win boat races.

Break sailing down into these categories; boat, rig, sails, crew skills, fitness. The last two, crew skills and fitness are what you need to perfect to be a champion.

How many times does the local champ finish one minute ahead on the race track?

If you look at his skills he may tack and gybe just two seconds faster! So if you tack twenty times in a race and gybe ten times, all of a sudden just with excellent boat handling skills you are ahead by one minute. This is how you win boat races.

How many hours does the local club Golf Pro practice his swing?

How good would Ian Thorpe be if he turned up to the pool on a Saturday afternoon for two races and did no practice during the week?

Forget about the new gear that's available – just get out there and practice the basics and before long the front of the fleet will be you."

➤ **Social:**

Curry night was a reasonable success. Quite a few members braved a cold night. But alas, curries were a little lacking in bang. Now know for next time to be a bit more liberal with the chilli. Future social ideas include another popular supper and quiz night. A Friday night pot luck dinner. a meet and greet who's new in the club ( learn to sail people etc ) and remember the date of the Christmas party Sunday 21 December. What about a ice breaker swim in as little as possible, big photo opportunity!! What about a picnic raft up.....that's all for now, *Nessa*

➤ **Programme**

First trailer yacht / keeeler race on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, first Centreboard race, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, and Opening Day, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

➤ **The downside of not having a wind up keel. Especially mid-winter!!**



➤ **Check out the Check driven website regularly** <http://www.ltyc.org.nz/>

For all the happenings, race results, membership info ....etc.....etc

➤ **Feedback or news items** or both to [lubberline@ltyc.org.nz](mailto:lubberline@ltyc.org.nz) **PLEASE!!**

*Mike Keys*



*Wednesday Night Fever*