



PO Box 301515 Albany

Thundercat newsletter July 2010

Hi All

Prizegiving

The Thundercat prizegiving for 2010 was held on Friday at the Top of the Town Ballroom at the Hyatt hotel and was a great night.

This was especially the case for **Smuggler Marine** who took out National Champions, 1st equal as Surfcross Champions and Club Champions all in their second full year of racing. A great result for Logan Pringle and Sarah Barrell.

Second place in the national championships went to the experienced crew in **Jungle Coffee** and third place was **Blackpepper** who not only took out the Endurance Champions Trophy but showed great consistency to come 1st equal with Smuggler in the Surfcross. Again a great effort for another team only in their second full year of competition. The new points structure meant that racing was this year much closer with the final results only determined by the last race. The top 3 boats had only 6 points separating them.

Rookie of the year plus winner of the Wellington cup went to Ben Cross and Mark Harman from the Hawkes Bay crew of Quin Buildings.

Other notable awards were Sportsman of the year trophy which went to Gary Morrison for the second year running for his outstanding efforts in the role of RD plus Ambassador of the year awarded to secretary Sandi Keen as a result of her thankless administration role in the club.

Annual General Meeting for 2010

The TRANZ AGM was held at Swashbucklers at Westhaven on Saturday July 3.

1. The election of officers resulted in little change from last year except that Zane Randall was voted onto the committee replacing Chris Brown who will remain as Wellington branch chairman.

The Club executive for the 2010/11 season is:

President Steve Frogley

Vice President Kyle Burdett

Secretary Sandi Keen

Treasurer Gary Morrison
Executive Neil Geddes, Zane Randall, Kerry Wood
NZ Power boat Federation reps Tony Vercauteren, Perrin Reilly.

2. The meeting also set the new membership fees which have increased for the first time since TRANZ was formed in 1999. The fee increases are necessary due to significantly increased operating and compliance costs.

The new fees are:

Joining fee (one off for new members only) \$200

Annual Membership \$100 per individual or \$150 per family

Race Licence \$200.

Please note that membership fees for the 2010/11 season are now due. Current membership expired on May 31. An invoice will be sent out shortly to all members. Please note that if fees are not paid prior to September 1 you will be removed from the membership list and be required to re apply for membership (and pay the joining fee of \$200) SO PAY UP NOW!!

The meeting also approved the new race events calendar. It is proposed that race day fees for club days are \$80 per boat with the opportunity for a season pass of \$500 for the 8 club days (saves \$140) payable prior to Sept 1 as well. Nationals race entry fees are still to be set.

3. Financial accounts. The club accounts were produced at the AGM and a summary from treasurer Gary Morrison is at the end of this letter. They show the club to be currently in a poor financial position for the reasons outlined. This has necessitated the increased fees for 2010/11.
4. Television. As a result of the current club financial position TRANZ is not in a position to contribute to any television coverage for this coming year. The meeting voted unanimously for no TRANZ funding of TV for the 2010/11 season and that any promotion would need to be up to individuals.
5. Presidents report and Calendar. Attached is the Presidents report and race calendar for the coming 2010/11 season as presented at the meeting. The race calendar as always is subject to permit approval. These are currently being applied for. Some notable changes this year are the relocation of King of the Cape to pre Christmas to combine with a surfcross club day, a surfcross day at Takapuna (still to be confirmed) which should offer great promotion of the sport for minimal cost, plus replacement of the Lyall Bay Wellington event with a weekend one in Hawkes Bay (Napier) hopefully delivering better conditions than Wellington usually affords. The calendar for Wellington branch will follow shortly.

Next Event Taupo Endurance Race Saturday 7 August

Don't forget the next event is the Taupo Endurance event 101Km around Lake Taupo organized by the Wellington Branch. Entries must be forwarded to

secretary@thundercatracing.co.nz before July 19. There must be a minimum of 10 entries for it to proceed. For more information please contact Wellington Branch chairman Chris Brown cbrown@chevron.com or phone 0274 997639.

The first Auckland club surfcross for the coming season is as per the calendar at Orewa on Saturday September 12.

Club Meetings

There will be no club general meetings this year other than a race rules meeting to be notified shortly. Executive meetings are held every month and if anyone wishes to contribute they are welcome to attend. Please email secretary@thundercatracing.co.nz if you wish to attend or have any issues you wish to raise.

Have a great winter
Steve Frogley

Attached: Treasurers report 2010, Presidents report 2010, Race Calendar 2011

Treasurers Report for Financial Year Ended 31st May 2010

The accounts have yet to be audited however I believe that they present an accurate and true picture of our current financial position.

The accounts show that:

1. We incurred a loss of \$17,571 for the year as against a profit of \$2,661 for the 2008/2009 year.

Main reasons for the turnaround are:

- Reduced number of entrants in the National Series (revenue down by \$17,375)
- Lower proceeds from auction night (\$7,737)
- Increased racing costs (\$3,854)

2. As at 31st May 2010, we had funds in the bank of \$3,369

3. As at 31st May 2010, we owe \$16,747, predominantly relating to Television Expenses

I recommend that to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the club we need to consider our ability to continue funding the costs of a televised series and if so, there needs to be a considerable increase in fees to remove the reliance on fundraising events to meet funding shortfalls.

Gary Morrison
Treasurer
1st July 2010



TRANZ Presidents Report 2010

The 2010 racing summer was a hard act to follow on from that of the previous. After a successful Australia trip and prizegiving in 09 the new TRANZ committee was faced with a challenge to create new exciting events and encourage growth of the sport in the middle of a media driven recession.

The most notable effect of the recession was the lack of new sponsors to the sport or the reduced amount of involvement of existing sponsors. This was particularly evidenced by the fact boats were either self sponsored or retained the previous sponsors logos for no return to avoid the signwriting cost of rebranding.

Despite this members unanimously voted to pay for a 2 program TV series to be aired on Sky TV in September 2010 by means of a \$1800 entry fee to the national series with Superdockets generously taking on the extra cost to production and to air.

Entries to the nationals totalled 22 down from the 28 from the previous year but included 1 crew from Hawkes Bay and 2 from Wellington who this year strongly challenged the Auckland racers. Many of the venues this year produced surf which made for exciting racing. Despite the fact Lyall Bay in Wellington was flat for the national round the Cook Strait crossing was able to proceed for only the second time to be won by a local (Demon Blue).

As has been evident in recent years the social side of the club was strong and after match prizegivings were always a fun event punctuated by Tony Vercauterens presentations.

Sportsmanship and comraderie is something that sets thundercat racing apart from other motor sports and is part of the reason I am sure many of us remain in the game. It was again evident this year and made RD Gary Morrison's difficult job much more bearable.

Whilst on this subject I must thank the executive committee that you voted in for their support and efforts over the past year.

Kyle Burdett (vice president) who has handled all the permits and dealt with all the beureaucratic and council issues to enable race days to proceed.

Gary Morrison as treasurer and RD who tirelessly manages every race day on his own. Gary is the ultimate diplomat and a pivotal figure in the club and without him there would currently be no racing. We are all fortunate that he has committed for one more year.

Sandi Keen, who mid way through the season volunteered to take on the thankless role of club secretary from Sandra Guy who was forced to step down for personal reasons. Fortunately Sandi has agreed to be available for the 2011 season.

Neil Geddes for his fundraising contributions and balanced views as an entrepreneur as to how the club should be moving forward.

Chris Brown as Wellington Branch chairman who has been instrumental in growing the Wellington branch over the past few years.

Moving forward 2011

1/ Events

The 2011 calendar will be similar to that of the 2010 which seems to have followed a popular formula. The main differences will likely be the national Lyall Bay event will be replaced by one in the Hawkes Bay. (to be confirmed). This is due to a strong Wellington representation in Hawkes Bay, better beaches and more likelihood of surf. (plus similar social venues). The Cook strait event will be deleted due to lack of interest and cost. In addition it is proposed to change the rule book such that the nationals are contested over 6 surfcross rounds (no drop one). The addition of endurance events is still to be decided. Endurance events are popular overseas and form part of the world championships but we as a club must vote on the level of importance.

2/ Club meetings

Due to the electronic age club meetings are now obsolete. The AGM will always remain but unless members feel otherwise all correspondence will be to paid up members via email. The voted executive meets monthly and anyone is welcome to attend if they have any issues they feel need addressing. These can be initiated by an email to secretary@thundercatracing.co.nz . A race rules amendment meeting is likely the only other club meeting to be held later in the year.

3/ Fees

As per a separate report the club needs to immediately review its fees which are essentially unchanged since 2000. Operating and compliance costs have increased significantly and we must increase all fees accordingly to enable the club to survive. In the age of professionalism in every sport we still rely on volunteers (such as Gary and Sandi) who offer their services for our enjoyment free of charge. In a user pays world which this is fast becoming it will shortly become necessary for race marshalls to be paid. This will essentially double current race fees.

4/ Fundraising

A number of club executive and members have been particularly proactive this year in fundraising to help with club funds in order to reduce members fees. Unfortunately the burden of fundraising has been onerously placed on a generous small few and the bulk of the club has shown general apathy towards any fundraising. With this in mind higher fees are proposed and any fundraising or sourcing of sponsors will be up to the individual. User pays policy will apply.

5/ International Events

Regrettably our contact in Australia who was instrumental in facilitating the 09 trip has dropped out of the sport due to the politics. The Australian clubs are currently in disarray but I will endeavour to organise an overseas event for 2011 if possible

We look forward to a successful 2011 season.

Steve Frogley



Thundercat 2011 season proposed race calendar

2010

Sep-12	Sunday	Orewa	Club surfcross
Oct-09	Saturday	Mangawhai	Club surfcross
Nov-13	Saturday	Raglan	Club surfcross
Nov-20	Saturday	Harbour swim Takapuna	event assistance
Nov-21	Sunday	beach	Club surfcross
Dec-04	Saturday	Ahipara	Club surfcross
Dec-05	Sunday	90 Mile Beach	King of the cape endurance 1

Jan-03	Monday	Whangamata Mt	National surfcross 1
Jan-04	Tuesday	Maunganui	National surfcross 2
Jan-08	Saturday	Waihi Beach	National surfcross 3
Jan-29	Saturday	Waipu Cove	Endurance 2
Jan-30	Sunday	Waipu Cove	National surfcross 4
Feb-19	Saturday	Piha	National surfcross 5
Feb-26	Saturday	Hawkes Bay	National surfcross 6
Feb-27	Sunday	Hawkes Bay	Endurance 3
Mar-12	Saturday	Pauanui	Club surfcross
Apr-10	Saturday	Waihi	Club surfcross
May-07	Saturday	Orewa	Club surfcross