

Australian Tasar Council – Annual General Meeting

Presidents Report 2023

It is my great pleasure to present this report to the Annual General Meeting at the 48th Australian Tasar National Championship in Toronto, NSW. I will firstly take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of both the Tasar Association of New South Wales (TANSW) led by Hugh Tait and host venue Toronto Amateur Sailing Club, who will no doubt put on a superb event here on beautiful Lake Macquarie.

It has been one (1) year since my last report at the AGM in Port Lincoln South Australia, a regatta that was staged during the height of the COVID pandemic, plagued by border restrictions with organising partner TAWA unable to participate, but was a wonderful event with true country hospitality. Former world champions Chris Dance and Peter Hackett from Victoria sailed an exceptional regatta and are the defending National Champions.

We had five (5) Australian teams travel to the USA to compete in the recent Tasar World Championships which were held on Puget Sound in Seattle, Washington in September 2022 – following a 12 month delay. The event whilst smaller in attendance due to difficulties in securing reasonable container transport and lingering travel uncertainty due to COVID, was an excellent display of high quality racing and sportsmanship – the daily ‘debrief’ hosted by the North American sailors is something I hope all Australian sailors will embrace as a way to continually lift the quality of our entire fleet.

The next World Championships which have been confirmed for Melbourne Australia, in January 2024 is working toward the development of a standardised large scale charter operation which may need to be considered as the model to support world level participation into the future. As foreshadowed at the last WTC AGM, sending containers offshore remains cost prohibitive now and probably into the future and we need to consider more innovative arrangements to ensure that class participation remains strong at the world level. The Victorian fleet will likely need support to secure available Tasars from neighbouring states, so please consider how you can assist this effort to ensure this important event on home soil is a success.

As you know, the Japanese Tasar Association (JTA) have put forward a formal motion to remove the crew weight rule. We know that previous attempts have not been successful however through consultation between the World Tasar Council (WTC) and the Bethwaite family that if the rule was to be removed, it would be supported. Australian member engagement remains on foot with a number of districts supporting online Q&A style forums with the vote scheduled to take place on 1 February 2023.

From an administrative perspective, the ATC is encouraged by an emerging membership base in South East Queensland who thanks to a small and enthusiastic collective, are reviewing opportunities to reconstitute and have developed a model constitution in earnest. Whilst the signs are positive, we are realistically at least 6 months away from an active association in Queensland running independently without the oversight of the ATC. This does mean that

unfortunately, the TAQ are not able to lodge a vote either for or against the crew weight rule proposal.

A focus for the ATC remains working more collaboratively with the WTC and throughout 2022, the regional presidents met almost monthly and will continue this cadence in 2023. Issues such as future design options, ongoing cost constraints, the future of Tasar specific fittings and implementation for our manufactured class etc. are considered and we'll continue to use the ATC quarterly video calls as a means to report progress.

More recently, I have asked the WTC to consider development of a strategic plan and vision for the Tasar class. Whilst removing the crew weight rule represents a 'circuit breaker' opportunity, in my view we have a further need to re-define the Tasar 'identity' (who and what do we want to be and what is the pathway to help us get there). The class needs a strategic framework to enable clearer navigation of some of these issues which will help us build a more consistent platform to effect change and increase participation. We plan to take next steps to review and develop from early 2023.

In closing, I wish to give thanks to our members, without you we would not be the great class that we are. COVID has significantly changed the landscape of community sport and sailing across the country has generally suffered. To those who continue to 'show up' at your local club, to those that make the time and cost investment to attend events such as these national titles, thank you for your commitment and fair sailing to you all.

Nicole Kidman President, Australian Tasar Council

29 December 2022

UNOFFICIAL