

Australian Tasar Council – Annual General Meeting

Presidents Report 2019

It is my great pleasure to present this report to the Annual General Meeting at this 46th Australian Tasar Nationals held at Largs Bay Sailing Club in Adelaide, South Australia. I would firstly take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of ATC Secretary/Treasurer Adrian Nicholson; who after 10 years in this role, has decided to step down and take a well-earned break. I wish his successor well in this important role.

Whilst there has only been six (6) months since my last report at the AGM in Darwin, the ATC has made good progress against its intended objectives. As outlined in my Presidents Summary of the previous Nationals, the ATC has reviewed and published an updated version of the ATC major event guidelines to ensure alignment with the World Sailing Regatta Manual, among other important inclusions. The ATC will continue to support the districts through these optimised resources, including a comprehensive review to be undertaken of its constitution ahead of the next Nationals in Mandurah, Western Australia.

The recently updated event guidelines document will also guide the tender evaluation process for the recently released Request for Proposal (RFP) to host the upcoming Australian Worlds in 2023/2024. The ATC looks forward to receiving proposals from its districts to host this important event.

As previously advised, the ATC is coordinating the shipping arrangements of the Australian fleet to Hayling Island, UK for the upcoming 2019 Tasar Worlds. We continue to also work closely with the WTC and North American Tasar Association (NATA) to establish opportunities to manage charter boats via Australia for overseas entrants to minimise expense for our local competitors. We have commenced this important activity early as part of lessons learnt from coordination of containers to Gamagori, Japan in 2017.

I'm pleased to report that we have a clear way forward regarding the recent changes to the Centreboard case design. The ATC is closely engaged with the WTC who have assessed the rule changes required to enable existing boats to be modified to the new specification. Whilst these changes cover the new centreboard case and retrofitting to older boats, they also cover the boom fit out, the compass rule and changes to the interpretations. The rule changes have now been issued to the districts for their review ahead of an online vote to take place on 1 March 2019.

As foreshadowed in my last Presidents report, a focus for the ATC in the previous period has been on establishing increased communications and dialogue with the builder and its agencies to maximise opportunities for new Tasars to come into the fleet and ensuring availability of spare parts etc. The ATC was pleased to be able to negotiate a bulk buy deal on both sails and spars in August 2018, and despite short lead times resulted in an order of almost 50 sails and 20 spar sections. It is hoped that these bulk buy deals will become a more frequent fixture for the class moving forward.

In addition, the first of hopefully many formal engagements to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the Tasar class occurred in November 2018 in Sydney with Julian Bethwaite, myself; as well as Chris Parkinson as a member of the WTC Advisory Council. The meeting was focused on outcomes relating to the centreboard case retrofit kit, future options for the class and the cost of sails which are perceived as a barrier to entry into the class. These discussions were well documented and I encourage all members to keep abreast of developments and future action plans through the facility of the ATC quarterly teleconferences and associated minutes.

Finally, the ATC offers its congratulations to the Tasar Association of SA, President Adrian Nicholson and his team on what is sure to be another memorable event in Adelaide, South Australia. Well done.

On a personal note, I am eagerly watching from the side-lines for this event, as we prepare to expand our growing family. I wish all competitors good luck and fair sailing.

Nicole Kidman President, Australian Tasar Council

4 January 2019