



LEISURE ISLE BOAT CLUB: NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016



On a fabulous spring morning, with the lagoon like glass and the mountains in the background, the view from the balcony at LIBC must surely be one of the most beautiful in the world! Thankfully summer is rapidly approaching, the weather is warming up and the sun rises earlier each day. It is time for all of us to be hauling our boats and equipment out from winter storage and to start preparing for summer. Already we are seeing more boats and activity at LIBC and a few die-hard fishermen have once again started venturing out to the fishing grounds. LIBC looks forward to seeing everyone in a few months' time!

By contrast, for those of our members who are only here over the holiday season in mid-summer, when the harbour is a hive of activity with people and boats, the reality of a cold, grey winter day at LIBC with an empty harbour, is very different:



FINANCIAL REPORT

Managing and operating a facility like LIBC takes a lot of time, effort and, of course, cost. The LIBC Committee is very conscious of costs and the need to manage the Club's finances responsibly and pro-actively. Boat harbours and marinas require constant maintenance and upgrading and if this is not carried out in a structured manner, costs can easily get out of control. For this reason, the Committee has not only been careful to manage current expenditure, but has also focussed on forward planning to ensure that LIBC will be in a position to meet any challenges which may arise in future.

Apart from normal, ongoing operating and maintenance costs, we can expect to incur significant expenditure in several directions in future:

- LIBC survived a torrid time during 2015 related to security, and although 2016 has thus far been much better, there have been several break-ins and unfortunate incidents. There is no doubt that things will only get worse, and the Club's forward financial planning has to allow for considerable security upgrading.
- The replacement of the jetty piles is a reality and something which the Committee has already started to address (see elsewhere in this newsletter).
- The LIBC Harbour Management team has done an excellent job of repairing and maintaining the jetties over the past year or two. The condition of the jetties has been reviewed and the Committee is satisfied that, considering their age, the jetties are in an excellent condition. They are structurally sound and safe to use, and we have identified methods to extend the useful life of the jetties for many years. The finger jetties may need to be addressed because some of them are becoming decidedly wobbly! They are being carefully monitored and action will be taken if this becomes essential. In the meantime, the Club's financial planning has to allow for building up reserve funds sufficient to provide for the eventual enormous cost of replacement of the jetty structures.
- Harbour silting is also a potential huge problem and this will have to be addressed at some point in the future.

Based on the above, the Committee focussed on the following when preparing the budget for 2017:

- Every normal operating and maintenance cost item has been evaluated and adjusted as necessary. A fundamental decision was that, while the existing high standards which we enjoy at LIBC must not be sacrificed in any way, any unnecessary expenditure is to be avoided.
- The budget allows for known current maintenance and repair costs, and there is an allowance for potential future costs. To this end, the budget targets creating a surplus of between R150 000.00 and R 200 000.00 each year to build up an adequate reserve for the future.
- The budget also makes allowance for LIBC's donations to the Knysna Sports Academy and NSRI as part of our social responsibility programme.
- In order to be fair to all members, the budget is based on keeping the increase in the basic membership fee (annual subscription) to a minimum, while the increase in the berth levies and trailer parking, where the major maintenance and repair costs are incurred, are slightly higher. There is thus no general overall increase, and the Committee has rather adjusted each item of income to what we believe is a fair and affordable figure.

The 2016 Financial Statements will be presented for approval at the AGM in December, but, because the AGM is held so late in the year, we have the peculiar situation where subscriptions for 2017 have to be sent out (and paid!) before the budget is approved. Therefore, for Members' information, the following are the revised fees for 2017:

ITEM	CURRENT 2016	2017
Entrance Fee	R2 300.00	R2 750.00
Annual Subscription (Membership Fee)	R800.00	R 880.00
Berth Levy	R1 725.00	R2 000.00
Trailer Park (Members)	R920.00	R1 060.00
Canoe Rack	R 460.00	R 505.00
Temporary Membership		
Per week	R 175.00	R 250.00
Per month	R700.00	R 900.00
Berth Hire		
Out of season, per day	R 60.00	R 70.00
School holidays, per day	R 100.00	R 120.00
Easter and December/January, per day	R 140.00	R 175.00
Long Lease of Berths		
Per six months	R2 180.00	R2 500.00
Per one year	R6 210.00	R6 900.00
Slipway Launch Fee (Non- Members)	R 80.00	R 100.00
Temporary Trailer Park (grassed area adjacent to slipway)		
Per day	R 25.00	R 50.00
Per week	R 100.00	R200.00

SECURITY

While the security situation has thus far been much improved when compared with last year, Knysna generally has seen a significant increase in crime during 2016, and there are strong indications that this is starting to spread to Leisure Isle. At LIBC we have experienced a few incidents during August and September, when the perimeter fence was again cut and boat batteries have been reported missing.

As in the past the Committee is closely monitoring the situation and will take action when it becomes necessary and when we are convinced that there is a cost effective solution. In the meantime, we ask all our Members to check your boats and to report anything missing. Also, PLEASE play your part by taking care of your boats and equipment and removing any items of value.

MEMBERSHIP

As reported in the last newsletter, our Membership has reached the limit of 400 and there is now a waiting list. Depending on the numbers of new applications over the next few months, the Committee may raise this matter at the AGM.

We have received queries as to where to find Membership Application forms, and we wish to advise that these can be downloaded from the LIBC website. Go to the "About LIBC" page at <http://www.libcknysna.co.za/index.php/about-libc> and you will be able to download the form (we will be asking our website manager to move the form to a more accessible and visible place on the website!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Leisure Isle Boat Club annual general meeting will take place at 17 30 on Tuesday, 20 December 2016 at the boat club. Drinks and snacks will be provided after the meeting and we urge as many members as possible to attend. Remember that the date is chosen to make sure that as many members as possible will be able to attend, and this is your opportunity to hear about what is happening at your club and to make your contribution. We promise that the meeting will be brief and enjoyable.

KNYSNA SPORTS ACADEMY

With the exception of two years (2013 and 2014), when there were severe restraints on the club financial resources, LIBC has, since 2007, donated an amount of R 40 000.00 each year to the Knysna Sports Academy. The sports academy was founded in 1992 with the mission "*to promote sportsmanship, fellowship and self-respect to children in Knysna through the medium of a healthy sporting ethos and environment, and the development of their skills in their chosen sport.*"

The basic objective is to provide access to coaching and sporting facilities to **all** school children in the Knysna area.

Visit the Knysna Sports Academy at <http://www.knysnasportschool.co.za/> to find out more about the work they do.



About 500 children have been given the opportunity to try their hands at golf, which is one of eight sporting programmes offered by the Knysna Sports Academy. These programmes give the children something new to look forward to every week, and reports from their teachers describe the hugely beneficial effect.

LIBC recently received the following letter of appreciation for the donation made in December 2015



KNYSNA SPORT SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Tel: 044 384 0548 | colin.mathiesen@gmail.com | www.knysnasportschool.co.za | Public Benefit Organisation
930020894

The Chairman

16.8.2016

LIBC

By email

Dear John and Craig,

Your 2016 donation of R40 000 is paying for regular sport for 30 under-privileged local children. We have 1400 children on our register this year. Sport helps them to avoid gangs, drugs and delinquency, enhance their self-esteem, and teach sporting etiquette and behaviour. Many children with absentee fathers benefit from the 'father figures' of our coaches.

Thank you for caring, and helping to make a difference.

The children you support have expressed their appreciation in writing. I shall drop off their letters at the Club.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colin Mathiesen'.

Colin Mathiesen.

In addition, a number of the children wrote their own letters to LIBC and these were presented to the Club as a booklet. PLEASE, next time you visit LIBC, ask Clive or Margie to show you the letters. I am sure you will feel that our donation is very worthwhile!

HARBOUR NEWS

The LIBC Management and Staff have really worked hard over the last nine months and, as a result the club facilities are all looking really good and ready for the summer. It is particularly commendable that all the work has been carried out by the staff themselves with little or no outside help.

The following items have been attended to, or are well in progress

- ✓ The public toilet block was upgraded, cleaned and painted
- ✓ All outside timber and railings have been varnished
- ✓ The Club buildings have been repainted and varnished.
- ✓ The gardens have been completely revamped and the grassed areas are kept trimmed and neat.
- ✓ The jetties are maintained on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ The soakaway at the boat washbay became completely blocked and is in the process of being reconstructed. An unexpected hitch has proved to be the extremely high water table in this area – only about 600mm below the surface, but the work will be finished long before Xmas.
- ✓ Additional security lights have been installed to improve the lighting at the entrance to the harbour from the approach channel.
- ✓ The raised guard hut adjacent to the washbay is under construction. So far the columns and platform are complete and work is about to start on the room itself.
- ✓ Work has commenced on replacing some of the jetty piles. See below.
- ✓ Some grassed areas in the Members' parking enclosure have never grown properly and now a concerted effort is being made to get the lawn established. Grass will be planted and the affected areas will be cordoned off until we are satisfied that they can sustain traffic. Please be patient!

MANAGEMENT OF BOATS AND TRAILERS

The following is a repeat of what appeared in the last newsletter. Unmarked trailers, boats and canoes remain a serious administrative headache and all Members are again asked to cooperate and assist Harbour Management in a number of ways. Remember, while we do our best to ensure the safety of your boats, trailers, and equipment, we can only do so with your help.

- All trailers in the trailer park MUST be marked, and to this end stickers are supplied free of charge by Harbour Management. Unmarked trailers will have stickers fitted by Harbour Management who will accept no responsibility for any resulting errors. It is the Members' responsibility to ensure that boats and trailers are placed in the correct mooring/parking bay. Boats and trailers which are found to be in the wrong place may be removed by Harbour Management who will accept no responsibility for any resulting inconvenience or costs.
- The canoe rack has finally been sorted out and every canoe is marked with a sticker and placed in its allocated place. Please make sure you replace your canoe in the correct place and please be aware that any unmarked canoes will be removed!
- Despite numerous notices, there are still a number of unmarked and unclaimed canoes which have been temporarily stored behind the Clubhouse. These must be identified and/or removed forthwith, otherwise they will either be sold or given to charity.

BOAT DIMENSIONS

Ever since LIBC was established, the issue of boat dimensions has been something that rears its head on an ongoing basis.

The LIBC Committee and Management reminds all Members and visitors that there are very strict restrictions on the dimensions of boats which are allowed into the harbour. The rules pertaining to boat dimensions are included in the LIBC Bylaws and the Berth Owners' Agreements and are reproduced hereunder, for convenience:

Rows B, C, D, E	Row A	
Length		
Boat fitted with Outboard Engine	6.10m	6.70m
Boat fitted with Jet Propulsion	6.50m	7.20m
Beam	2.40m	2.50m
Draft	0.60m	0.60m

NOTE:

1. **Measurement to be from bow rail to transom.**
2. **In the case of jet propulsion, the measurement to be from bow rail to transom or any projection beyond the transom.**
3. **The maximum length of a trailer shall not exceed 8.5m**
4. **No deviations from the above will be permitted.**
5. **Out-mounts” for motors are added to the length of the hull for measurement purposes**

For clarity, please note that boats fitted with outboard motors may have projections behind the transom, such as ski seats, ladders, etc, provided that such items may not project beyond the side of the transom, nor may they project beyond the “leg” of the outboard motor, when the motor is in the operating (down) position.

It must be understood that that these rules were originally laid down and refined over the years because there is limited space in the LIBC harbour and it is simply not safe or possible to operate or accommodate oversized boats in the harbour. We also point out that, in terms of the By Laws, these rules actually apply to any boat anywhere in the harbour, which includes the trailer park, the boat launching area, the slipway and approach channels, and the harbour itself. The Committee and Management will use its discretion in the case of boats which do not enter the berth area of the harbour, but it must be clearly understood that the Committee and Management will have the final say and decision regarding any matter related to permissible boat dimensions. This is purely to safeguard LIBC Members' best overall interests.

JETTY PILES

In the July Newsletter it was reported that evidence of severe attack by marine borers, known as gribble, had been discovered. This resulted in an extensive investigation to try to determine the extent of the problem and the best way of overcoming it. A professional underwater survey of a sample number of poles was undertaken, and at the same time the committee thoroughly researched various alternative methods of replacing the poles.

A report was produced, which is available on the LIBC website should anyone be interested. The report concluded that the number of badly affected poles is not as bad as was initially thought. It is estimated that approximately 20 piles should be replaced immediately, and a further 110 within the next two years. Hopefully the balance will last for several more years. We cannot find an explanation why some piles are more badly affected than others, and this makes it difficult to predict what is going to happen in future. After a huge debate, it was decided that the most cost effective method of replacement was to continue with the treated timber piles and the replacement programme has commenced. Thirty new piles have been delivered to the harbour and we aim to have the first twenty pile installed before the holiday season. This is specialist work which has to be carried out by an outside contractor with the required expertise and equipment. Competitive quotations have been received and hopefully work will commence soon.



The above pile was removed from the harbour



This is an example of a badly affected pile that will be replaced now.

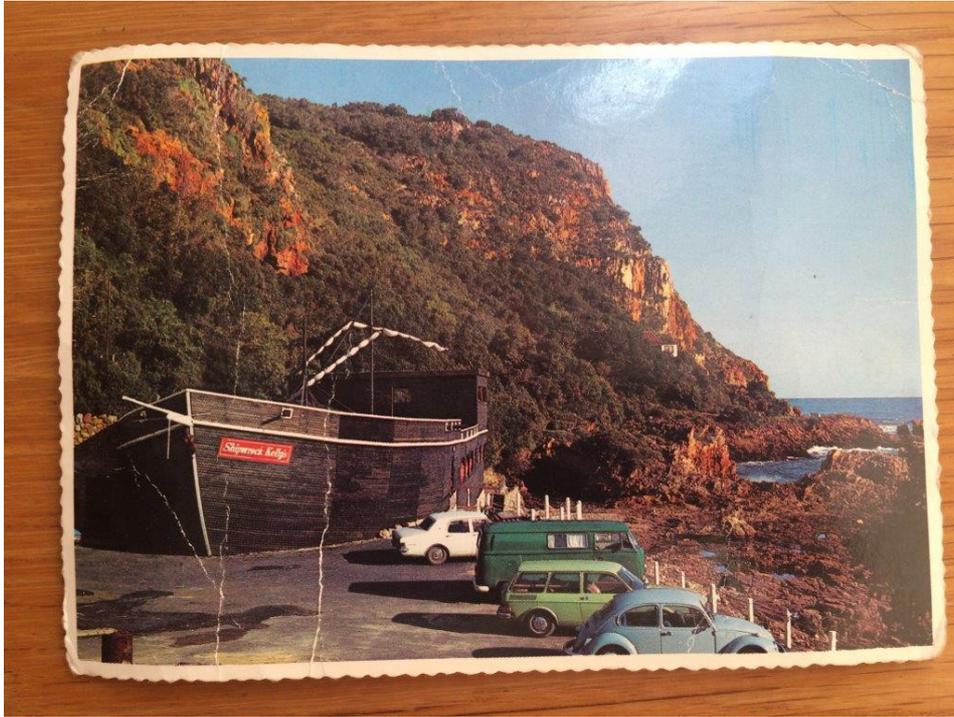


The above are examples of piles in a fair condition which will be monitored and replaced during the next two years

LIBC WEBSITE

Another reminder to make use of the LIBC website (<http://www.libcknysna.co.za/> and that there is an opportunity for advertising on the website. Anyone who is interested is urged to contact Clive Davis for details (clivegd@webmail.co.za).

THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND



I am sure many of the old-timers will remember the Paquita restaurant, when it was built in the early 1970's, but I wonder how many of you remember the original old Heads Café from even earlier days.
