

Mark Oliver
Commodore
Brisbane Valley Sailing Club
32 Relimba Street, Brisbane Q. 4128
26 October 2008

Attn:

Norman Fry

Executive Officer

YACHTING QUEENSLAND

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Norman,

I offer the following response on behalf of the BVSC in relation to your proposal for future collection of YQ membership affiliation and capitation fees.

We are a small sailing club that has been around since the early eighties. We have a lease agreement with SEQWater that gives us club access Lake Wivenhoe (North of Fernvale on the Brisbane Valley Highway). Our club runs a race calendar with two seasons a year involving the conduct fortnightly races. The majority of our sailing members sail catamarans and trailer tri-marans.

Like most sailing clubs, we are currently struggling to attract and retain sufficient sailing members and volunteers to conduct club activities, we believe due to a combination of issues such as: the cost of boats, gear, support equipment, fuel, the remoteness of our facilities, low dam water levels, the Y generation factor, and other competing sports/activities. Over the last decade, the club has seen the slow erosion of its sailing membership, to the point that in the current 08/09 sailing season we are running club activities with only seven full sailing members.

As you are aware, many clubs resisted recent changes and the introduction of the current YQ affiliation and capitation fee system due to a wide range of issues linked to fairness in banding and difficulties with fee calculation systems. In our clubs case, the initial fees for our club under the banding system was set at \$350, plus additional fees for members seeking a silver card. Our fee under this same banding system for this current year has been increased to \$440, plus additional fees for members seeking a silver card. Under your new proposal our fees will increase to a Club Affiliation fee of \$500, plus \$1,225 (from 7x AA adult members) or a total of \$1, 725 + GST. This new system will essentially mean that each sailing member will have to pay an additional individual fee of \$175 on top of other BVSC membership, dam permit, race and boat insurance fees.

While we understand that YQ requires a sufficient operating budget to facilitate its core activities, for our club, of recent times all our members are seriously questioning the benefits of YQ affiliation. To be honest, over the last five years nearly all communications our committee have received in relation to YQ have essentially been negative and usually followed by a plethora of other club emails outlining generic discontent.

At our last committee meeting in October, this new YQ fee collection strategy was discussed at length, and member sentiment was clear e.g. stay with YQ for the current year, but if fees keep increasing at current rates, the club will be forced to withdraw from YQ membership and essentially become a 'social sailing group'.

While in reality the loss of the BVSC affiliation is hardly likely to affect the future operations of YQ, this could hardly be considered 'in the interest of sailing' and core purpose of your organization. It is also not a path our club would like to take, but that is the reality of a small club with a diminishing membership and limited interaction or tangible benefits from YQ.

While there are many other issues for discussion in the fee collection proposal circulated, I believe the information outlined above best covers BVSC member sentiment on YQ funding proposal.

Regards

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