

Marty Wallace
President
Trailer Sailer Cub of Queensland (TSCQ)
PO Box 1501
Capalaba 4157

Norman Fry
Executive Officer
Yachting Queensland

29/10/2008

Dear Norman

Re: Proposal For The Future Collection Of Yachting Queensland Membership Fees

I refer to your letter of 18 September 2008. Your letter was distributed to members, and discussed at our September meeting. This open letter has been endorsed by the members present at the TSCQ club's monthly meeting of 28 October 2008.

The TSCQ members understand the membership fee issues facing YQ, and agree the current system can be improved. However, the TSCQ disagrees with the proposed dramatic increase in cost to our members detailed in the YQ proposal. The TSCQ would not object to the proposed change in method of collection provided there is little or no increase in the total cost to our members.

Background

The TSCQ has operated successfully for more than 40 years. TSCQ has been a continuous supporter of YQ since its inception, and has honestly complied with the current banding system. However, TSCQ has frequently considered abandoning affiliation with YQ.

The TSCQ only conducts one event each year where non TSCQ members are invited to participate. This is the Anniversary Regatta – Moreton Bay Classic. The TSCQ does not operate any clubhouse or revenue raising facility. Our club's charter, and its survival, relies on low membership fees, (including low YQ membership and affiliation costs).

Concerns with YQ proposal

The TSCQ is surprised by the apparent arrogance of the YQ Board (refer to sections 4 and 20 of the proposal document). YQ seems to assume that its members want to see the YQ annual operational costs and annual budget to continue to increase, with the consequence that fees must increase to match the budget the YQ Board would like to have.

The TSCQ believes it should be the other way around, with services and annual budget tailored to the income YQ receives. It is concerning to see that more than 50% of our YQ fees go to "administration and wages". The TSCQ members would not miss the majority of the "benefits" detailed in your Annex A.

Should the YQ membership fee proposal be adopted, TSCQ expects its continued affiliation would be unsustainable. A large percentage of our members would likely move to a club (or form a new club) which does not require YQ membership.

Possible Solution

The TSCQ suggests keeping it simple. YQ direct membership should have only two classes, adult and junior. YQ club affiliation fee categories should be strongly biased to the larger clubs which have the capacity to pay. For example:

Sailors

Adult	\$50
Junior	\$25

Clubs

Under 100 YQ members	\$100
101 – 300 YQ members	\$500
301 – 500 YQ members	\$2,000
501 – 1000 YQ members	\$10,000
Over 1000	\$20,000

In this example, the cost of club affiliation, per YQ member, would be:

50 members	\$2.00
200 members	\$2.50
400 members	\$5.00
750 members	\$13.33
1500 members	\$13.33

The total cost of an adult YQ membership (direct individual membership plus contribution to club affiliation) would be:

50 members	\$52.00
200 members	\$52.50
400 members	\$55.00
750 members	\$63.33
1500 members	\$63.33

Outcome

This alternative proposal should hopefully avoid an exodus of clubs and members from YQ. Without the relevant information, I cannot estimate the likely impact on funding for YQ operations. YQ may need to revise its operations to contain expenses within the revenue raised. YQ may need to be more innovative in attracting grants and other revenue. TSCQ would not object, in principle, to YQ introducing user pays fees for some services, particularly those which the smaller clubs make little use of.

Marty Wallace
President
Trailer Sailer Cub of Queensland (TSCQ)