

Club Captain Report

2021/22

When taking the time to reflect on the season, having just been. Apart from It was the season that never happened. It felt like we loaded trailers we rigged and derigged boats but just never got to actually Race. In fact, the only positive that I could initially think of was that there was nothing really to review so at least my Report would be short. But of course, there was a lot of great stuff going on in the background.

The Development Squad program came into its own this season Having been put in to place as a way of holding athletes interested in rowing while they waited for squad openings or new seasons to roll around. Personally, it was fantastic to see novices come into the club knowing their way around a boat. Sometimes we overlook the input our senior club rowers bring to the Club, and never fully appreciated their input until such time they move on with their own personal Journeys.

The season may have started off with a his and a roar with 107 competitors involved in the Petone Solstice, with Coastal Quads being involved for the first time. Following on with further success in Mothes Shield where HVHS won the Bishop Owen Oar. And then all of a sudden, the Regatta Season was thrown into Lockdown. Cancellation, Postponement and Changes of Venue all led to a very off again on again feel to the season.

The Masters eventually got on the water be it a month late 12 Athletes achieving 2 Golds, 4 Silvers and 2 Bronze Competing in 20 Events over two days. The regatta was a roaring success becoming the template for all South Island Rowing sanctioned events.

All Major North Island Regattas were cancelled and only at the 11th hour was NZ National Rowing Champs moved to Twizel. Again, I would like to thank all those involved dealing with the logistics of moving PRC from one end of the country to the other. Of course, special mention to our coaches Tracey, Kevin, Graham, Fiona and Andrew dealing with the upheaval. The amazing work behind the scenes by Michelle, Jane and Erica ensuring all the parent help was in place. In the end 45 Athletes headed to Twizel our biggest contingent ever, while slightly underdone when it came to racing, we still achieved 16A Finals and 10B Finals (1 Gold and 3 Bronze).

“Special Mention” needs to be made of Rhys Casley who stepped up becoming our Covid Officer at Nationals from all reports he did an amazing job keeping the Covid Dogs at bay enabling our club boys to participate to differing degrees. His efforts have to be applauded.

As a Club we are delighted with the success of Mackenzie Tuffin and Ella Livingston winning the Senior Double our first Senior Title since 2016. In doing so they have received the Wellington Regions 1st senior pins since the acknowledgement was instituted in 2017. Mackenzie along with Arie Magasiva have been named in the New Zealand Under 21 Squad who will travel to Australia for the Trans-Tasman Regatta in June, I’d also like to mention

Ella Price who departed us at the end of last season heading off to Otago University she has been selected in The New Zealand Trans-Tasman University Team, travelling to Australia in July. We wish them all the best.

We of course can't leave out two very special Members Beth Ross and Philip Wilson who have represented New Zealand and Petone Rowing over a number of years resulting in a Silver and Gold Medals respectively at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, we couldn't be prouder.

There are a number of Major Events on the horizon such as our 125th Anniversary all of which will need membership input. Fundraising still remains our biggest concerns be it for the ongoing Earthquake Strengthening or the need for replacement equipment. With the country moving out of Red Light and into Orange, we hope to see the return to more normal funding cycles.

As it has become tradition with my tenure as Club Captain firstly, I again offer my resignation if there is anyone else wishing to put up their hand to be Club Captain. Secondly, the Club Captain Prize this year goes to someone who put in some amazing work in and around the club.

Then we come to my favourite race of the season, well there was none, not being allowed to attend Regattas was a real bummer not being able to support all those athletes that have worked so hard all year. So it comes down to the most memorable sporting moment and is a great example of what makes Petone such a great club. For me it was when Hunter Sowerby and Monty Holden stepped up to try and qualify Club boats for Finals as a result of Covid Isolation a great example of Club and Team Sprit.

And lastly a big thanks to all those who over the year have helped me as Club Captain to keep the boats on the water, the athlete's safe and the water out of the club. With a special thankyou to my Deputy Club Captain Tracey and John our President for all those extras they have done helping to bring us thru another year of Covid.

**Guy Aitchison
Club Captain
Petone Rowing Club 2021/220**