



Petone Rowing Club

Club Captain Report 2019/20

Well what can one say the year felt like it was traveling along nicely with the recurring problems and issue that happen from time to time in any organization. When we were hit with “In these Unprecedented Times”. Bringing our season to an abrupt early end, affecting those school crews heading to Mardi and the Masters heading to Legions.

A much smaller group than in previous years headed off to Lake Ruataniwha to attend the 2019 Masters Nationals this year. While only being a small group of 9 athletes, they still represented the club with flying colours reaching 15 A Finals and achieving 3 Bronze and 2 Silver Medals. The strength of this competition is becoming more and more evident leading to the increasing number of competitors and the need for heats and semi-finals. We will just have to lift our game even higher.

Its amazing when writing these reports, looking back on our results from Regatta to Regatta how results can improve with hard work and good time on the water. As a Club we reached 16 A finals and 1 B Final at the Christmas Regatta, K1. Resulting in 1 Gold and 4 Silvers. Then returning a month later for the North Island Champs reaching 17 A finals and 4 B finals achieving 3 Golds, 2 Silvers and 4 Bronzes what a month can make.

And finally, the New Zealand Rowing Champs where with a little help from our RPC representatives Beth Ross and Phillip Willison. We reached 19 A finals and 3 B finals resulting in 1 Gold, 2 Silvers and & Bronzes. We can all be very proud with the effort shown and the results that our members achieved. We had many great performances this year but for me, my personal highlight was the Boys Novice 4X+ where up against all those great Waikato Rowing Schools we snatched a Bronze by only 0.4 seconds. They showed guts and determination right to the line. This group of young men should be very proud of what they achieved.

Congratulation to both Beth Ross and Philip Wilson both having been selected to represent New Zealand’s Elite Woman’s and Men’s 8+. We wish them all the best on their drastically differing paths towards the Olympic Games.

Special mention to the coaches who we can never thank enough for all the time and effort they put in, Andrew, Tracy, David, Ella, Fiona, Kevin and Caroline. To the parent help at Regattas without who the Athletes would never achieve the results they do. To Richard Devery of King Toyota and Paul Coles for the kind use of Tow vehicles.

This year we have had great success in securing grants from a number of different organizations. My thanks go out to Erica Tuffin and Brigid Rivers-Milliken for all their hard work. This year we have been able to replace the Red Nihad engine and remotes, replace a number of safety items and improve our Oar Stock. Fundraising is an ongoing requirement for any sporting club and our thanks can’t be stressed enough. As we enter another year of



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South Island Nationals, we hope to see our members step up with some great fundraising options as we look to cover the costs and flights to Christchurch. And the ongoing replacement of the racing fleet.

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 and sand out of the club. A special mention to Kevin who has on numerous occasions been my go to person when other commitments have left me short on time. His endless work on the Coach Boats and his work overseeing the WelTec gym sessions every Wednesday. I'm happy to name Kevin the recipient of the Club Captains award this year.

Personally, I've really enjoyed working with John Hitchcock our new Club President and his steps to formalize the many processes, that are required in the running of the club. As well as the overseeing of our Covid-19 policy and procedure. Not forgetting the committee for the endless hours of work behind the scenes.

This brings me again to the question of after 5 years in the position of Club Captain is it time for someone else to step up with the required energy and time, to be Club Captain. As Caroline has often mentioned the need for a succession plan. So, with this in mind I look forward to seeing the nominations this year, with my undertaking to insure we have the right people in place to insure the continued smooth running and success of the club.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members who have helped to make it truly a "Club of Champions"

Guy Aitchison
Club Captain
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