

Woman sailing star to head HMYC

Yachting Log
KEITH GERSON

WITNESS
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HISTORY was made at Henley Midmar Yacht Club on Saturday afternoon when Brenda Tarboton was elected commodore of the club at their annual general meeting. She is the first woman commodore in the club's history.

Tarboton has been involved in yachting since 1973 when she was a member of the University Sailing Club committee and she joined HMYC during that year when she crewed on a Spearhead, coming second in the Transvaal Sailing Association Spearhead Provincials. In 1976 she became involved, together with her husband Robert, in the Fireball Class, finishing third in the NYA Fireball Provincials as crew.

1978 was a highlight year for Tarboton as she took over as skipper and came third in the SA Nationals in this very competitive class. She then represented South Africa at the Fireball World Championship in Thailand as a skipper. She has the distinction of having been the HMYC Class Champion in Fireballs in 1977 and from 1979-1984 as skipper.

After a big gap bringing up two young sons, she purchased a Miracle in 1993 and, crewing for her husband, won the SA Nationals, repeating the feat in 1994. In 1995/96 she won the NYA Championships and in 1999 crewed the winning Miracle.

In 1988 she was elected Rear Commodore House by the local club and in addition is a very capable race officer, having run many major regattas at Midmar.

At present she assists her husband in teaching youngsters to sail their Optimists and is actively involved in bridge work for junior sailing at Midmar and for other provinces and helps to organise the junior regattas at Midmar. With her vast experience in sailing and administration and a very enthusiastic family behind her, HMYC can look forward to a very positive sailing season.

Vice-commodore is Tony Cockerill, another member with many years experience in sailing and administration. Currently the SA National Hunter champion, he has his young son Callum as crew and they are a formidable combination.

Rear-commodore is Dave Claxton, a new member who sails a Theta with his wife Julie and their girls. A successful Durban businessman, he promises to bring a new approach to the social, cruising and racing scene at HMYC.

The secretary remains the hard-working Riddell Weir with George Duffin as treasurer. South African yachtsman, well-known administrator and former HMYC commodore Wog Hawksworth was re-elected as club president while Elspeth Gray and Reg Beavitt were honoured as vice-presidents.

In an all-out effort to re-vitalise yachting at Midmar, class captains have been appointed to inspire their classes and it is hoped that with some motivation, boat owners and their crews will be persuaded to come out and cruise or race and enjoy the real fun that sailing can be at one of the prime spots for yachting in South Africa.