



DAC NEWS

January 2025

Happy New Year to all DAC members and their families!

Wishing everyone the very best for 2025.

**Reflecting on 2024,
DAC proudly hosted and participated in numerous memorable events.**



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DAC Sailors on the Move:

Congratulations to DAC sailors who ventured far and wide across South Africa's coastline—from Cape Town, up the West Coast, to Inacha, Richards Bay, Durban, East London, and Stutterheim. Your dedication keeps the DAC burgee flying proudly across the sailing community.

2025 Kicks Off:

The New Year began with the Single-Handed RTIR on January 1st. A special mention goes to new DAC member Bryan Paxman, who recently transitioned from flying to sailing. Bryan restored a Flying Fifteen yacht and actively competed in the GP series. Impressively, he was the only keelboat sailor to complete the RTIR course, while others retired due to challenging conditions. His determination truly reflects the spirit of the 'Vendée Globe.' You can read about Bryan's experience in his own words later in the newsletter.

Additionally, Bryan competed in the Flying Fifteen Nationals at Midmar Dam—an exceptional achievement for a newcomer to sailing. Well done, Bryan!

A Note from the Commodore:

2024 Highlights:

Youth J22 Challenge: Teams from KZN, Gauteng, and the Free State competed fiercely for the Trophy. A glance at the past champions engraved on the Trophy underscores the prestige of this regatta. May this event continue to thrive in the true spirit of sailing.

Keelboat Inland Regatta:

Despite low water levels on the dam affecting attendance, the regatta was a success. Day 1 saw shore-side activities like "Sip 'n Paint" take center stage due to strong winds (20-35 knots). The competition was intense, with handicaps heavily influencing the results. Thanks to all competitors and volunteers for making this event and the well-attended.

Pursuit Race: (24 entries from around the Vaal Dam) possible. The pursuit format, with staggered start times and a thrilling finish less than a boat length apart, was thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks to Kathy Manten and her team for expertly managing the Bridge on behalf of DAC.

Mexican Evening:

Hosted by the Entertainment Committee, this vibrant event had everyone dressed up and enjoying a fun-filled evening full of laughter and festive flair.

Formula 1 National Championship:

DAC had the honour of hosting this significant event, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Class. The regatta also served as a special remembrance for Dicky Manten and a fundraiser for the NSRI. Kathy Manten and her family, Mike Robinson(SAS) and Johnny Velloza(NSRI) were distinguished.

End-of-Year "Toy Drive" & Fun Dinghy Regatta:

A highlight featuring a Le Mans start, beach finishes, and spirited camaraderie. The event collected toys and essential items for the Catherine Robinson Home in Vereeniging, spreading joy to underprivileged children. Thank you to everyone who donated and contributed to this heartfelt cause.

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Club News

Welcome to Our New Manager

We welcomed Sandy Gaddin as the new DAC Manager from January 1st. Please feel free to contact Sandy to book launching, caravans, and any other requirements. **068 647 7108 or email manager@dac-club.co.za**



Currently, the **DAC Kitchen** is being addressed to determine the best route of operation for upcoming events. It will be manned by members where required.

Watch this space!

Security has been upgraded at DAC with CCTV, lighting – thank you again to our members who donated.

Upcoming events:

25th / 26th Jan – DAC - KOTV – “King of The Vaal” incorporating the “J22 Rockstar” & MO – all systems go – get your entries in.
7-9 Feb – LDYC – RTIR (Round the Island Race)

15 Feb SODAC – 15 Feb with “Valentine’s Dance ’ in the evening.

To keep up to date with all events – please down load the “live” calendar at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-dv_EryhUBvgXOV69LEQOt3rdgOx7Im0?usp=sharing



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Bryan's Single-Handed RTIR Report as Received

"When, after a significant delay, the start gun went off at LDYC, I was still 30 meters from the start line, but it was only 10 minutes later that I actually crossed the line as there was barely a breath of wind. We set off for the Groot Eiland on a port tack, which evolved into a broad reach near the island, the wind gaining strength as we went.

Rounding the first marker buoy at the south end of the island, the wind was strong—perfect for great sailing—but a huge, dark, black storm cell was headed our way. The storm hit us halfway up the island, with wind estimated at 40-plus knots. All hell broke loose! I gained a new respect for my Ffenomenal Flying Fifteen.

With sheets loose and sails flapping, the wind had us heeling over about 30 degrees or more.

Initially, I pulled in the genoa sheet to try to make headway, but all this did was blow us sideways and heel us right over to the extent that we were shipping water over the gunwale. The next plan was to furl the genoa and ease in the mainsheet... thank goodness we made headway again.

The swell had picked up to about a meter, and at some stage, we went over one swell and through the next. The cockpit was more than ankle-deep in water, but being single-handed, there was no time to bail and not enough speed for the self-bailers! Looking behind me, I saw boats grounding and heeling over on the shoreline.

After a hectic 15 minutes, the wind eased a little, and we made reasonable progress again, but tacking was a little hairy!

Nearing the second marker buoy, the wind eased further, and I could unfurl the genoa. Rounding the second marker buoy was a relief—going into a close reach, becoming a broad reach—the speed increased, and the self-bailers opened. In a minute or so, the boat was empty, and we were on the plane, kicking out a bow wave like a speedboat punching through the swell.

When the wind eased a little more, we slowed into a gentle corkscrew motion, surfing the swell. So sweet to see a long, flat wake behind us. From rounding the second marker buoy, we had a broad reach, which became an easy tack to the finish line."



**Here's to an exciting and successful year ahead for DAC.
May the winds be ever in our favour!**