

COVID-19 Virus

16 March 2020

Dear members,

General Committee, in close consultation with the General Manager, has been urgently considering the implications of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) for the Squadron. We have been assisted by several other members and their close contacts who have particular expertise to offer. The health and safety of RMYS members, visitors, staff and contractors is our priority, particularly given that a significant proportion of our membership demographic falls into the high risk category for COVID-19 related mortality.

All our advice has been to take strong action early. The expert advice is that, given our size and the demography of our membership, we will almost certainly see several members severely affected from this virus. If we take hard decisions now, the expectation is that we can significantly reduce the potential for this number to be higher. This is what GC and our staff are committed to achieving.

In accordance with Federal and State government advice and today's emergency legislation, our fundamental objective is to minimise individual contact and it is important this is applied consistently across all activities. We therefore need to make some significant changes to how the club functions. All of this will be subject to ongoing change as the situation is moving rapidly.

It is also important that each member determines how they conduct their daily activities based on their own personal circumstances and risk factor, the risk they may pose to others and the risk that others may pose to them. In particular, all members should familiarise themselves with the government-recommended social distancing protocols, sanitising and hygiene protocols and the triggers for self-quarantine.

We strongly urge that members in the higher risk categories related to age and health take strong actions to minimise their risk of infection – we emphasise that our advice is that the risk of severe illness or death is significant for those in these categories.

The impact on our facilities and events are detailed below and we will communicate regularly with updates and news on these matters.

Facilities

Clubhouse – while the office will remain open on a skeleton staff (see below), members are asked not to visit the clubhouse except for urgent matters and there will be no social activities (organised or informal) or meetings

Members Bar – the members bar will be closed until further notice

Marina – the marina is part of RMYS and the same procedures will apply as for the clubhouse, so social activities are not to be held on the marina. There will be no restrictions on members accessing their boats at this stage – we hope to keep your ability to go sailing open as long as we can

Yard – the yard will continue to operate, please contact Damien regarding slipping and yard work

Events

Sailing – RMYS is assessing how we can maintain some or all racing in a low-risk manner and will provide more detailed information as soon as possible. Whatever the outcome in relation to racing, for the foreseeable future there will be no pre- or post-race socialising, food or presentations.

For this Wednesday's Twilight:

- *The Race* - will be conducted as normal, crews please go straight to your boats. If you are taking out non-members, they are still required to purchase a SailPass on line via the RMYS website – passes will NOT be available at the club. Boat owners and skippers should satisfy themselves as to the health status of any SailPass crew prior to inviting them to race. Colin will contact you as usual for intention to race etc.
- *Members bar* – will be closed all day on Wednesday
- *Wednesday dinner* – dinner will not be provided, the Harbour Room will be closed.
- *Marina social activity* – the marina is part of RMYS and the same procedures apply as the clubhouse. As a result, social activities are not to be held on the marina.

Racing this Saturday March 21 – This Saturday's race is conducted by HBYC; we will advise if HBYC are running the race.

Mid Week Mariners – await further advice

Friday night dinner – Pot, Palma and a chat this Friday night is cancelled; dinner will not be served on Friday nights until further notice.

Committee meetings – all committee meetings will be postponed until further notice and we are developing options to conduct these meetings electronically with remote log-in; this option should be in place by later this week

Members meeting 23 March to present building concept – will not be held on this date and is postponed until further notice.

Office - there will always be someone in the office during normal hours however some staff will be working from home on a rotation basis. Email is the best method of communication with the office, or phone. Unnecessary visits will be discouraged. Hand sanitising protocols and social distancing protocols will apply.

What Next?

We will keep our members and others informed with regular updates, at least weekly.

GC will meet this week (electronically) to review these actions and to look ahead at the implications for the Squadron for our finances and operations.

If you have questions contact the General Manager or a GC member directly, but please remember that we are extremely busy dealing with the virus situation so an email is preferable to a phone call where possible.

Charles Meredith
Commodore

Matt Solly
General Manager