

March 15, 2018

Hello English Bay keelboat sailors,

I write to you all now in order to follow up on the e-mail message that you recently received from Court Touwslager, in regard to his plans for this year's Thursday Night keelboat racing series on English Bay.

Keelboat racing sailors on English Bay all owe a great debt of thanks to Court and his team for their many years of work.

However, for the reasons that Court has explained in his message this past Sunday night, the FCYC Thursday Night keelboat racing series cannot continue in its present form.

The Kitsilano Yacht Club (KYC) is honoured that Court and his team of FCYC race organizers have approached KYC, and have reposed their confidence in KYC to provide a solution that will secure the continued Thursday Night keelboat racing series into the future.

As you all will have observed from your time on the water, for many years the Eastern end of English Bay has been the venue for two distinct sailboat racing series on Thursday nights.

Keelboats have raced a course hosted by FCYC, while dinghies and small boats have raced a course hosted by KYC.

While there are some cultural differences between the two types of sailing fleet, the race organizers from both FCYC and KYC believe that it is in the best interests of our sport to join forces, eliminate redundancy, and integrate our respective race programs. We are all racing sailors, after all.

For those of you unfamiliar with KYC, I would introduce the club by telling you that KYC was founded in the summer of 1934, with a purpose to foster amateur sailing on English Bay, and to encourage competition in the sport at the highest level. The club is now home to many active one-design sailing fleets, and includes active sailors from the International Star, the International 505, the Martin 242,

the Melges 24, the Lightning and the Cal 20 fleets. The backbone of our club membership has always been competitive sailing, with the original founding members largely drawn from the Geary 18 (“Flattie”) dinghy and International Star keelboat fleets.

KYC has always strived to offer the best sailboat racing possible for its members, in a friendly environment, for a moderate cost. Our members’ strong and inclusive volunteer ethic helps us achieve that.

A key benefit of KYC membership, is that the club operates regular Thursday night racing for its members from May to September, a weekend Spring and Fall series, and number of longer distance day races that may well hold appeal to larger keelboat crews.

KYC currently owns a fleet of four motorboats, which we employ to set our race courses, and provide on-water support.

These race series are all operated for KYC sailors as part of the club’s membership benefits.

Annual membership dues at KYC are currently \$300, and there is no initiation fee to join the club.

So in order to ensure the future of Thursday Night sailboat racing on English Bay for everyone, we propose to expand our KYC race operations to run two race courses simultaneously, and to welcome the keelboaters into KYC membership, where they would enjoy Thursday Night racing as one of their membership privileges.

With your support of this proposal, KYC will plan to make available the motor vessels, race equipment, and personnel necessary to extend race operations into running two race courses simultaneously on Thursday nights. If there were membership demand, then potentially this Thursday Night keelboat series could be extended into hosting other local keelboat events as well.

We hope that you see the great potential benefit for all of us in this plan, both in social and economic terms.

Socially, it would have the potential to accelerate participation in our sport, with the potential for cross-training and new crew members going in each direction. Obviously, it will also give the new keelboat members access to the other benefits of KYC membership, beyond the regular race program.

Economically, it would significantly improve the economies of scale for acquiring and maintaining race support vessels and equipment, and for investing in the training and development of race personnel.

So it is in this context that I would like to invite you all to an Open House at the KYC clubhouse at 2401 Point Grey Road, Vancouver, on March 27, 2018, at 7:00 pm, where we can all discuss the future together.

I look forward to meeting you then.

Regards,



Brian Trainor
KYC Commodore

