

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The tragedy of last weekend certainly brought home the importance of not taking anything for granted. The sea, in all its beauty, can also be treacherous and unpredictable with the most awful consequences. No matter how experienced you are, never take it for granted and always sign on when leaving port even if it is only for a quick trip to catch bait. This was a very hard way for us to learn a lesson but hopefully everyone will take note.

With only a day to go before the tournament we finally received approval. I find it incredible that we actually had an objection to this event. Obviously it could not have come from a business person in town as it is very clear how much revenue we generate with the pub chockers, all accommodation booked and business booming! Still, it does make you wonder!

We were predicting a bumper tournament and were rewarded with 122 boats entering. Many of those who normally enter late got in early which is a sign that they are realising that dinner and jackets sell out quite early. Of course we are restricted by the size of our marquee and the numbers we can cater for but I think everyone understands that and still managed to have a great time. The marquee was filled to capacity each night with a great turn up for the presentation of trophies as well on the Monday night. This is very gratifying as it is an extra buzz for the winners when their friends are all present.

The caterers did a wonderful job on the Sunday night and the barbecue team headed by Gary Cairns outdid themselves. There was no problem with an extra barbecue on Sunday lunch due to cancellation of fishing. There were volunteers for gantry duty which all went smoothly and the bar was manned by a very efficient bunch of members. Frank was again outstanding in selling raffle tickets and commented on the generosity of those present. Roger worked like a dog throughout the event and we cannot thank him enough. An executive decision has been made that he MUST fish next year as he has done more than his fair share! There is a lot of hard work involved and those who volunteered are to be thanked sincerely.

As usual the atmosphere in the marquee was fantastic. It is a happy fact that our's is a very friendly tournament with everyone talking to both new and old friends. The bar always does a roaring trade and there were a few headaches and wobbly stomachs...I was told there was something in the water!!!!

The NSWGFA Junior Team fished on "Bill Collector" with GFAA President Grahame Williams as their coach and mentor and they tagged two Yellowfin. Mark Hoare (Canberra), Santos Raposarda (Ulladulla), Dylan Steel (Coffs Harbour) and David Stella (Shellharbour) were a credit to their clubs and NSWGFA. Canberra GFC waived the entry fee for these juniors and it was great to have them.

I do not have the calendar for next season yet but know that both Batemans Bay and Merimbula have tournaments in June.

NEXT MEETING : 3 JUNE 2008

Sanchia Glaskin
24 May 2008