

## Sept 2007 Newsletter

### Dates for the 2007/2008 North Shore City Surf Ski Series

2007 – 2008 Surf Ski Series

Only four weeks to go!

Thursday November 1, 2007	<b>Sign Up Night - Takapuna Boat Club 7pm</b>
Tuesday November 6,	Race 1: Rego 4.30-6.15pm Start 6.30pm
Tuesday November 13	Race 2: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday November 20	Race 3: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday November 27	Race 4: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday December 4	Race 5: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday December 11	Race 6: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6:15pm
Tuesday December 18	Race 7: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6:15pm
<b>Christmas Break</b>	
Tuesday January 15, 2008	Race 8: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday January 22	Race 9: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday January 29	Race 10: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday February 5	Race 11: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday February 12	Race 12: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday February 19	Race 13: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday February 26	Race 14: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday March 4	Race 15: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Tuesday March 11	Race 16: Rego 5.15-6pm Start 6.15pm
Wednesday March 19	<b>Awards Night and Drinks - Takapuna</b>

# Paddler Survey – Tracy Wilson

From Tracy Wilson

We'd like your feedback on how to make TBC a better club for paddlers – and appreciate you taking the time to answer the following questions.

Some of the thoughts we've had so far: have TBC surf ski club champs once a year; organize club racing once a month (3pm on Sat – try to do some sort of down wind course – drink after); Thursday night club night at TBC (start day light savings, paddle first at 6pm, then bar open); have a training schedule on the website for those who want more structure (Sat and Sun + mid week).

So – answer the questions below or just email me back with your comments. One thing I would say is if we are to implement any of these (like racing) – we will need some help (if you want times, or a safety boat on the harbour – we need volunteers) – so please let me know if you want to help out with any / some of the ideas.

## **Questions**

- 1) How long have you been a member of TBC?
  
- 2) What was your main reason for joining?
  
- 3) What are your expectations for surf ski paddlers from TBC? What would you like to see TBC do for paddlers?
  
- 4) Do you want to help out with organizing these activities?
  
- 5) Do you attend the social functions (dinners, etc)? Any suggestions for social functions?
  
- 6) Do you belong to other clubs? What ones?
  
- 7) Any other suggestions or feedback?
  
- 8) Thanks for taking the time – will let you know what people wanted and want we can do.

Please send your replies (listed from 1 to 8) to [tracy.wilson@clear.net.nz](mailto:tracy.wilson@clear.net.nz)

## **Tracy Wilson**

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## Shark Attack on Surf Ski in Cape Town

Written by Rob Mousley

Fish Hoek, Cape Town, South Africa - 16h40, Friday 28 July 2006

Five paddlers were bunched together about 30m from the catwalk near Sunny Cove when a Great White shark attacked the ski closest to shore.

Bruce Neil was paddling on Lyle Maasdorp's left when he saw the shark hit Lyle's ski. "The back of the ski was lifted right out of the water as the shark breached," Bruce said.

Lyle's first impression was that someone was playing a trick on him. But, glancing



over his right shoulder, he "saw something in the water" and knew that all was not well. Then he felt the back of the ski being forced under water by the weight of the shark. Lyle tried to stay on the ski, "I knew there would be serious admin if I fell off!" But as the ski tilted up, he slid off into the water right next to shark.

"The water looked like a Jacuzzi," said Bruce, "the shark's tail was thrashing, Lyle was thrashing..."

Lyle had landed with his left arm draped over the shark. "The shark's tail was curved around him," said Bruce, "he was surrounded by shark". The shark was still biting the ski and Lyle, having lost his paddle, thrust himself back on the ski and tried to paddle into shore, surfboard style. At this point the shark disappeared.

By then the other paddlers (Bruce Neil, Ant Pearse, Mike de Villiers and Dom Strano) had turned towards the shore. Ant Pearse who was closest to Lyle shouted to him to get on the back of his ski. Lyle swam the few metres across and surged on. The paddlers all headed for the rocks as fast as they could go. Lyle scrambled up, ran up to the road and was given a lift back to Fish Hoek.

When the rest of the paddlers got back to the beach, they called the NSRI - there were another two paddlers still on the water. Neil MacDonald, one of the two, takes up the story: "We left before the rest of them and paddled around the lighthouse. We had been on the water for an hour when the NSRI arrived - at speed. The crew were still in civvies not having had a chance to get into their gear. They told us what had happened, took us off the water and took us back to

Fish Hoek beach. Hats off to them."Alison Kock, from the Iziko Museums Shark Research Centre, estimated from the size of the bite taken out of the ski that the shark was between 3 and 4m in length. This was a "hard bite" she said, not an exploratory nibble. The incident was the third attack on surf skis in the area in the last four years.



## Drama Galore at ARB Surf Ski World Cup



### Race Start

Durban – The ARB Surf Ski World Cup produced drama galore, as the howling South Westerly wind played havoc with the field and a controversy surrounding the legality of the race leaders crossing the mouth of Durban harbour kept the big crowd on tenterhooks for several hours.

Defending champ Hank McGregor was leading the race as he approached the southern pier of the Durban harbour mouth, at the same time as a colossal container ship was about to enter the port.

Oscar Chalupsky, who had opted to take a deeper line out to sea, arrived seconds later. Both were then under the control of the safety officials, who had the final say over whether it was safe to cross the harbour mouth.

Chalupsky led the break across the harbour mouth in front of the approaching ship, and took a well researched oblique line, while McGregor opted to follow Chalupsky, but on a straighter and shorter route across the harbour mouth. "I did my homework on the last kilometre," said Chalupsky afterwards. "No one took the line that I found, and look at the difference it made."

Chalupsky's tactics paid off, and he coasted into the windswept Vetchie's beach at Durban's Point well ahead of McGregor, who immediately made his displeasure known.

The race jury, under chair John Parton, considered the evidence of all the officials on duty at the harbour mouth and decided that there had been no breach of the race rules, and overturned McGregor's objection.

"We considered video evidence, as well as oral evidence from officials on the two boats at the harbour mouth, and the official on duty in the Millennium tower who saw the whole incident, and we have agreed that the race results should stand, and the objection is overruled."

Chalupsky's race time was adjusted by seven seconds to allow for the delay imposed on McGregor by officials at the harbour mouth. Chalupsky's well thought-out line across the harbour to finish however earned him a margin of almost a minute over McGregor.

Seasoned Aussie Dean Gardiner finished third, underscoring how well the experienced veterans were able to fare in the big swell conditions. Durbanite Matt Bouman was just behind him, with pre-race favourite Tim Jacobs in fifth place.

The women's title went to plucky Capetonian Alexa Lombard, who's late entry caught a lot of the top paddlers by surprise.

Still nursing a sore shoulder that goes back to an accident during January's Dusi, she mastered the difficult big swells better than any of the other women, to take the top honours.

An understandably delighted Lombard said that she has no idea where she was in the race, as the big waves and demanding swells meant that she didn't have a glimpse of where she was relative to the other women. "I might as well have been fifth!" she said. "It was huge out there, and very tricky."

The former world marathon championships silver medallist was so concerned about her safety in the strong South-Wester that she tied herself to her ski with a roof-rack strap anchoring her ski to a knot tied around her waist.

The challenge from top Kiwi sprinter Katie Pocock never materialised after she damaged her rudder on the shark nets going out at the start at Amanzimtoti. Top local female ski racer Belinda Carbutt's day ended when she fell out and was separated from her ski while passing the Bluff.

Michelle Eder was second in the women's race, with Tiffany Kruger third, with Zululand teenager Shaun Austin taking the junior honours, paddling into the top fifty, an finishing just behind visiting international Franck Fifils, from St Martin in the Caribbean.

Andrew and Simon Blackburn were the first double ski home, in 13<sup>th</sup> place overall, and Clive Mundon and Jenny Cullinan took the mixed doubles title.



The strong wind and fierce swells accounted for twenty percent of the field. Of the 250 odd craft that left the race start at Amanzimtoti, only 196 made it to the finish at the Vetchies beach at Durban's Point.

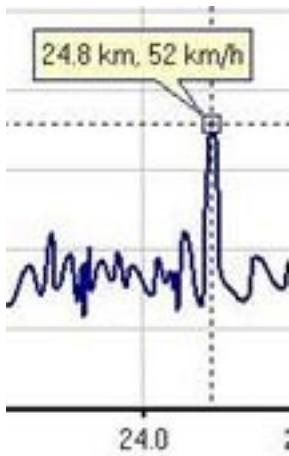
Lifesavers and the NSRI spent a frantic afternoon rescuing paddlers that had become separated from their skis. While all the paddlers eventually accounted for, scores of abandoned skis were washed up onto beaches south of the city.

Australian team captain Dave Kissane was one of the casualties. He was pitchpoled high into the air, after his ski nosedived down a particularly steep swell, when he was right on the tail, of Oscar Chalupsky.

"I heard the boat crack as it went under. The water pressure whacked a huge crack into it. I managed to get back onto the ski, but in less than a minute I could feel that it was filling up with water, and I realised that it would be a struggle just to get to the finish."

The visiting French team was also hammered by the testing conditions. Consisting largely of youngsters with little surf experienced youngsters, had to be rescued from the surf.

One of the double surf ski teams in the event clocked themselves at 52km.



- SUMMARY OF RESULTS  
ARB SURF SKI WORLD CUP  
Men (RSA unless stated)
- 1.Oscar Chalupsky 1:39.56
  - 2.Hank McGregor 1:40.46
  - 3.Dean Gardiner (Aus) 1:40.56
  - 4.Matt Bouman 1:41.00
  - 5.Tim Jacobs (Aus) 1:41.12
  - 6.Dawid Mocke 1:41.14
  - 7.Herman Chalupsky 1:41.24
  - 8.Barry Lewin 1:41.45
  - 9.Ash Nesbit 1:42.11
  - 10.Daryl Bartho 1:42.39

NZ results:

22 Paul Wilford

Katie Pocock withdrew after damaging her rudder in the nasty shorebreak.

## International Events

2007 Hong Kong the Dragon Run 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007 (see below)

2007 Dubai Shamaal (UAE): 29/30 November 2007

2007 Perth (Aus): 8/9 December 2007

2008 King of the Harbor (NZ): Mar 2008

2008 Molokai (Hawaii, USA): May 2008

2008 Durban (SA): June 2008

# “THE DRAGON RUN”

**NOVEMBER 24, 2007;  
International Surfski and Outrigger Championships**

Hong Kong will be the stage of an International Surfski and Outrigger solo race across some of the best paddling waters in the territory on November 24. The race will be approx 20-26km, depending on the conditions on the day, and pass through some beautiful scenery.

Conditions at this time of the year are great for paddling. The North East monsoon – the prevailing wind at that time of the year in this part of the world - should provide for some excellent down wind paddling conditions. If the prevailing winds blow, the proposed race course should offer approximately 15km of down wind paddling. Water temperatures will be around 23 degrees Celsius, with air-temperature between 18 and 27 degrees.

In Hong Kong East meets West, and there is plenty to do and see other than paddling. Hong Kong is famous for shopping and eating but it also offers a range of great cultural experiences and, as anyone who has been here will tell you, is a fantastic place to have a serious party.

Prize money will be a minimum US\$10,000. The prize money break down, logistical arrangements and routes will be announced soon. There will be a limited number of surfskis available, new Epic V10's, and a variety of used surfskis from different manufacturers that will be made available by local paddlers.

If you are interested in participating in the race and need to charter a surfski please drop us an e-mail to [info@Roughwater.com.hk](mailto:info@Roughwater.com.hk). More details on availability and charter fees will become available soon.

Please note that there are direct return flights from Hong Kong to Dubai, and Perth, making it possible to attend 3 World Class paddling events in a short time span.

## Upcoming Local Events

MONTH	DATE	RACE	CONTACT
Nov	11	<b>Interclub WCMC &amp; NSCC (but everyone welcome)</b> Henderson Creek =teams of 3 relay race 6km each Start Time: 9am	Richard Couchman 818 2580 Wk 837 3330
	18	<b>Rodney Coast Challenge</b> Run 10km, Cycle 30km, MTB 24km Kayak 8km, run 50m.	Graeme 09 420 5322
Dec	2	<b>Superdune</b> The annual Bethels Beach Multisport Race run by WCMC Start Time 9am	Phill Exeter 834 8393
	9	<b>Round the Peninsula - 9km</b> Start Time: 10:30am Te Atatu Boating Club, Bridge Avenue, Te Atatu	Richard Couchman 818 2580

## Winter Training

### City Training

There are a few Surf Ski paddlers training regularly from **Fergs at 0645 Mondays and Wednesdays**. Anyone welcome...the more the merrier

Contact Pierre

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