

**CAVALCADE**  
**AUTUMN EDITION 2013**

My dear fellow Cavaliers,

Another season has come and gone in the life span of our little Association and it is fantastic to see such a healthy continuation of interested participation in the Cav 28s, which as you know, have now been an integral part of the Sydney yachting scene for well over 30 years now. Whilst our yachts definitely fall into the “old slow” category, when compared to some of the feather weight stripped out skiffs that pose as yachts nowadays, I was only thinking to myself the other day in the last race of our season, the Kelly Cup, that a powered up Cav with a good looking set of sails close hauled in 15 knot breeze is an impressive sight.

Indeed, the Sydney Amateurs Championship race, the Kelly Cup, held on 13 March 2013, was testimony to the continuing competitiveness of the Cavalier 28. In a fleet of 22 starters, the Cavs occupied the first 4 out of 10 places, with David Brown and his crew on Quattro winning the coveted title, Brian McConachy and Co claiming the Tara IPO Trophy in second place, Peter Donnelly in Flying Circus on 5<sup>th</sup> and Blind Justice 8<sup>th</sup>.

As at the time of dictation of this report, I have not conducted necessary research on the subject however, a Cav 28 has, to my knowledge, at least in the last 15 years, not won the Kelly Cup and this may well be a first for a Cavalier 28. This suspicion will be confirmed in subsequent editions of Cavalcade.

In our racing season just completed, there were 13 races scheduled and 2 were abandoned due to weather conditions.

In the scratch department, Craig and Rod Mitchell in Centaurus had a comfortable win over Brian McConachy in U2 with Peter Donnelly in Flying Circus finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

As with almost every season in the last several years that I can recall, the PHS title came down to the last race, which disappointingly for all concerned, proved a fizzer with the race abandoned due to no competitor finishing within the allocated time.

Blind Justice went into the final race 1 point clear of Flying Circus and with the race abandoned, the status quo was preserved however, the second drop rule then came into effect with Flying Circus being able to drop an 8<sup>th</sup> place and Blind Justice only able to drop a 6<sup>th</sup> and there was accordingly a 2 point turnaround with the final results being Flying Circus 32 points, Blind Justice 33 and Quattro 34.

I know that many of you will think “how close is that” however, let me assure you that I can recall from years in the past when the PHS title was decided by .75 of a point!

A highly enjoyable season of racing with some very close results. In particular, with Blind Justice, Flying Circus and Quattro often being only a few boat lengths apart for the entire race.

The State Championships were conducted in March, in conjunction with the Sydney Harbour Regatta. We were blessed in having 2 perfect days of sailing with a consistent 12 to 17 knot north/east breeze and lovely sunny days. Once again, our friends from Pittwater, Dick Pearse and his crew on Dancelot, carried off the scratch title closely followed by Centaurus and Scuttlebutt and in the PHS Division, Blind Justice secured the title over Christina and Quattro.

Whilst the State Championships can be demanding both physically and in terms of commitment, an entire weekend, it is a great event with some terrific racing being enjoyed by those participating. In the last few years the weather has been very kind to us and we have had some great sailing over the weekend followed by the get together and announcement of winners back at the SASC, which is always highly enjoyable.

At a recent Committee Meeting a number of issues were discussed and it was felt that through the medium of Cavalcade we should bring our members into the loop in relation to a number of issues which we believe should be considered for next year's programme. Not necessarily in terms of priority, they are as follows:-

### **1. State Championships**

The Committee is aware that there are quite a number of well maintained and competitive boats that would probably fare well in a Championship Regatta but for, the problems associated with spinnakers in terms of crew skill and experience. We all know that it can be stressful and indeed, dangerous in attempting to carry spinnakers during a race with crew that are not up to the required standard. We all know that good foredeck crew are to be cherished and indeed, afforded special status as they are few and far between and it is difficult to say the least, to recruit and maintain competent people for the sharp end.

Accordingly, as a concept only at this stage, the Committee felt that it would be appropriate to float amongst the membership, the suggestion that next year's Championship event would be a non-spinnaker regatta, thereby enticing what the Committee feels may be perhaps another half dozen or so entrants.

For this year's series we had 10 competitors and the Committee felt that particularly with the support of the GFS, that number could be boosted up to 16 or 17, which would indeed make a great regatta.

We are aware that there may be some opposition to this suggestion and indeed, well placed objection, however, it was felt that as everybody would be competing on the same level, it would still be a genuine test amongst competitors of notionally equal performance, although it of course would not include the extra level of difficulty and seamanship involved in racing with spinnakers.

The concept of having larger participation generally throughout the Association was essentially the driving factor behind this suggestion.

As this suggestion is inherently dependent upon participation of a number of Cavs that sail with the GFS, the co-operation of that Club would obviously be essential in recruiting the necessary numbers.

Some feedback please, on the Association's website.

On the subject of the State Championships, competitors would be aware that for the last few Regattas we have raced under a 5 series event, 3 races on the first day, 2 on the Sunday. All races count and there are no drops. The Committee felt the following issues were worthy of debate:-

- (a) Should we stick with the existing programme.
- (b) Should we allow 1 drop.
- (c) Should we expand the programme to have 3 races on both days with 1 discard.

Membership feedback is requested.

## 2. **The next issue for debate is the subject of Course A as used for last season**

The reconfiguration of Course A to the Beashel Buoy as the top mark was intended to bring the fleet closer together rather than the "procession" effect often experienced when sailing the old Course with Lady Jane as the top mark.

To this extent, the reconfigured Course has, in my view, being an outstanding success with the fleet very often all together as we approach the bottom mark Shark Island. As competitors would know, the wind shadow effect at Shark Island is a problem but with experience, a modicum of luck and good sailing, the "death zone" can be avoided, if not totally, at least, partially. Your Committee has spent considerable time on this subject over the last year or so and without going to too much detail, it can be simply stated that it is not easy to reconfigure Course A into a Course that will suit everybody. The Committee feels membership should provide feedback in relation to the following issues:-

- (a) Do we persist with the existing Course A?
- (b) Do we go back to the old Course A?
- (c) Do we endeavor to find a reconfigured Course A?

## 3. **Annual Dinner**

The Annual Dinner/Prize Giving is scheduled for Friday, 10 May 2013 at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at 7.00 pm. Always a great night. \$85.00 per head is probably the best value in town for an excellent meal with accompanying wine and drinks.

Mrs O'Halloran alleges that I am becoming grumpy (a charge I angrily deny) but always tells me that I am at my happiest at the Annual Dinner (prize or no prize) and those who regularly attend will attest to the wonderful atmosphere and bonhomie that permeates through the room.

Entry forms have been sent out already and they are available on the Association website. The RSVP date is 26 April 2013 and I would urge all members to come along on the night for a terrific evening.

### **Vale Norm Brown**

Association members may be aware that Norm Brown passed away recently aged 83. Norm was instrumental in assisting Guy Keon of Cavalier Yachts in the development of the Cavalier 28 which as we all know went on to become an extremely successful and popular class of yacht. Norm's input in the early years of construction of the Cavalier 28 was invaluable. Norm had the first boat out of the mould Arika which he raced regularly in the early days of the association.

His son Robert is making arrangements for a wake to be held at the Drummoyne Sailing Club in the near future.

As we now head into our quieter months of the year, always remember that unlike a lot of modern boats with small headsails and large mains, a Cav 28 sails beautifully under a headsail only and with the right conditions, a cruise for a couple of hours with good company, some nice food and wine and a boat that almost sails itself, is a very happy way to pass the next 4 or 5 months on the beautiful waters of our Harbour.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner.

Stephen O'Halloran  
Secretary  
Cavalier 28 Association.