

CAVALCADE CHRISTMAS 2012



Dear Cavaliers

Just a brief edition of Cavalcade at this time due to a variety of cogent and valid reasons.

At the halfway mark of our racing programme, we see an interesting situation developing with regard to the point score.

In the scratch department, Centaurus is in the lead, followed by U2, Flying Circus and Blind Justice. Whilst Centaurus is in the lead, anything could happen going by some blinding speed shown by U2 in race 4 and Flying Circus in race 7.

In the handicap department, Blind Justice has her nose in front by just a point from Quattro with Flying Circus snapping at their heels and Centaurus in fourth sport.

No doubt, there are 2 burning questions on everyone's mind. Firstly, what do we think of the new Course A? And secondly, should the Committee be calling for swabs on the Blind Justice Crew and or inspection of the boat?

To answer to the second question first, no such procedures will be necessary. I can honestly put my hand up and say that I have no idea why we have done better this year than last year, the only explanations that come to mind are as follows:-

1. The handicapper has been kinder to us than last year.
2. Some good luck on the new North East Course.
3. Some tactical decisions going the right way for a change.

With regard to the first question, the new North East Course, the Committee would be extremely interested to hear some feedback from the racing fleet.

For my own part, the whole concept of reconfiguring Course A was to attempt to bring the fleet closer together and avoid the "procession" that would often occur on the old Course A. To that end, I think that the exercise has been successful and the fleet is certainly much more compressed. The problems with the lee side of Shark Island are obvious – I think poor old Scuttlebutt was still there doing slow 360s on our second trip around the Island last week! However, with more experience we may well all be able to deal with the tricky conditions that exist at that place. Brian McConaghy did suggest that perhaps we could utilize the YA mark off Point Piper – that may be a go however, it would certainly make the race longer and it is already quite long. Perhaps an alternate could be to drop off the second leg back to Beashel. Your comments would be appreciated.

The rest of our courses seem to be well entrenched and I think we are content with them.

The conditions for our first 7 races have been unusually light – certainly not typical of a summer north east breeze. Course A may be a different proposition in a more traditionally robust breeze.

Our season recommences on 19 January next with Race 8. I am certainly looking forward to the rest of our season and hope the group feels the same way. Don't forget the Sydney Harbour Regatta/State Championships on 9 and 10 March and our annual dinner get together on 10 May.

Extending to you all the season's greetings and hope you have a happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all on the water again in mid January 2013.

With kind regards and best wishes

Stephen O'Halloran
Secretary Cav 28 Association