



CAVALIER 28 ASSOCIATION

CAVALCADE

CHRISTMAS EDITION

DECEMBER 2003

Dear Members,

Greetings and felicitations. Welcome to the official silly season! I sincerely hope that the commencement of our sailing program 2003/04 has been kinder to you than it has to me and the trusty crew of “Blind Justice” more about that later.

SOME BUSINESS MATTERS

Association members would be aware there has been some administration problems within the Association since the Annual General Meeting on 26th August last, which fortunately have now been cured with a minimal amount of dislocation to the orderly running of our Association.

As you have been previously advised, at the Annual General Meeting held in August there was some unsatisfactory features relating to the election of office bearers and as a result several members requested an Extraordinary General Meeting so as to conduct a fresh election for office bearers. That meeting took place on 16th October last and the office bearers for the Association for the 2003/04 year have now been confirmed as follows: -

President	Stephen O'Halloran (“Blind Justice”)
Treasurer	Richard Christian (“Christina III”)
Secretary	Justin Pelly (“Quambi”)
Class Representative	Jonathon Rosenberg (“Shoshana”)
Special Executive Member	Bruce Bowden (“Trikiere Bay”)

At both the Annual General Meeting and the Extraordinary General Meeting there were amendments made to the constitution of the Association which are summarised as follows: -

1. Payment of subscriptions – subscriptions now become due and payable on 1st July each year and there is then a period of grace of 45 days to remain financial. Notices will be sent to Association members accordingly when subscriptions become due;
2. Notices – the constitution has been amended so as to provide for notices to be given to Association members by e-mail for those that have an electronic address;
3. Proxies – the former constitution contained provision for voting by proxy. Those sections were somewhat loose and have now been appropriately “tightened up” so as to bring them into line with current corporation practice;
4. Nominations for office bearers – the previous constitution contains no provision requiring persons wishing to nominate for a position on the committee to give notice of their intention. The constitution now provides that persons wishing to seek a position on the committee are required to nominate within 14 days of the Annual General Meeting.

I trust the above information sufficiently details the formal business matters of the Association that were transacted at the last two meetings held in August and October 2003.

RACING SEASON TO DATE

The season commenced on 20th September and at the time of publication there have been eight races in the overall points score, three Norm Brown races and two Mini Regattas. At this stage the early high performers are as follows: -

Overall scratch – Centaurus, Shoshana, Quambi

Overall handicap – Quambi, Joka, Ca Va

Norm Brown – Trikiere Bay, Shoshana, Rhondo

Mini Regattas – Trikiere Bay, Centaurus

It is of course a long season and in football parlance there are many “April” premiers who seem to find a way to unravel and eventually crash and burn leaving only a few oily globules on the surface to mark their once glorious existence.

At this stage might I urge members who are not participating, to give serious consideration to taking part in the Mini Regatta series. This style of racing is different to the usual Saturday afternoon procession around the harbour and is very much more exciting, at least in my opinion. The courses are short sausage style courses with generally 2/3 races being conducted on each day. That style of racing is identical to the format of the State Championships and is in my opinion an excellent training ground for the State Titles that will be upon us shortly.

The next Mini Regatta is scheduled for 13th December and I urge more of the racing fleet to participate. A casual entry can be obtained from the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

The last Norm Brown race for this half of the season is scheduled for 6th December next and I would like to have our traditional Christmas raft up at the conclusion of the race. Should the course be the north east course a raft up in Taylors Bay is appropriate and if it is a southerly course then a raft up near the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club in Point Piper would be appropriate. I can well understand that with pressures on everyone’s time it is not always possible to do the things we would like to do, however if you could find time to participate in a raft up I am sure that you would enjoy the occasion. I recall one in Taylors Bay a few years ago where we must have had 12 or 13 boats! Anyhow, do what you can and if you can make it along to the raft up on 6th December next we would love to see you.

AUSTRALIA DAY REGATTA

Members attention is drawn to the Australia Day regatta scheduled for the 26th January next. This is a genuinely historic event and some of our members have participated on several occasion over the years. You should be aware of the fact that if we can achieve a fleet of five boats the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron will create a separate Cavalier 28 division for us and there will be a very prestigious prize to be won for the boat achieving top honours. Might I strongly suggest that members give serious consideration to participating in the event next

year. Application forms and enquiries should be directed to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The State Championships for 2004 will be conducted by the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club at Point Piper on Sunday 22nd and Sunday 29th February next.

I am sure that by now you are familiar with the eligibility requirements which in summary form are as follows:-

1. The helmsman must be a financial member of the Cavalier 28 Association;
2. Unless granted approval by the committee, each yacht must have participated in at least five races at club level;
3. No “professionals” as crew;
4. Skippers and crews must be financial members of recognised yacht clubs or be granted “club crew” membership through the YA.

Notwithstanding these provisions the Association is very keen to attract as many entrants as possible and I do encourage all Association members to make the effort to join in our annual regatta. Last year we had 18 entrants and I am very keen this year to achieve similar numbers if not some more.

I am sure that all of those that participated in last years State Championships thoroughly enjoyed the two weekends and the drinks, BBQ and prize giving at the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club at the conclusion of the series was extremely well attended and was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. This year we intend to ask the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club to make the course legs little longer for next year. As usual there will be some highly worthwhile prizes awarded those fortunate enough to score a place in either the scratch or handicap department.

NAVIGATIONAL MATTERS

As indicated earlier in the newsletter “Blind Justice” has had a torrid start to the season, missing some of the early races and then running aground on 25th October in the first Mini Regatta of the season.

We came to grief between Neilson Park & Bottle and Glass point. We were heading into the shore line on port just behind “Quambi”, who then tacked back onto starboard. We followed her line, tacking in or about the same spot and headed back out into the main channel when we hit some submerged rocks. I cannot recall how far we were from the shore but I felt we had adequate water. Whilst I was aware that the tide was low I did not appreciate that it was a “big” low tide and that was obviously the key factor.

The boat is now out of the water, in a thousand pieces and looks like remaining that way for several weeks yet. Very bad karma!

Since the event I have spoken to a number of yachtsmen who have confirmed that there is a reef in or about that area upon which other boats have also grounded. I am told that there is a similar problem off Georges Head. Shark Island and Bradleys Head are also areas to be aware of particularly at low tide. It would appear that these areas do not represent a problem at high tide but caution is obviously required when the tide is low.

Running aground at 5 knots is a truly unpleasant experience.

MIKE FLETCHER TRAINING SEMINARS

Those members who took advantage of the Mike Fletcher training seminars will no doubt regard the events as being extremely worthwhile. He gave us two full Sundays with a theory session on the previous Thursday evening and the very modest cost to individual Association members (\$100) per boat was extremely good value. Your Association did of course subsidise to the extent of 50% the cost of the coaching seminars. A unique opportunity to

have probably Australia's number one yachting coach give us his undivided attention over two days.

We intend to organise similar events next year subject to Mike Fletcher's commitments which are quite extensive particularly in terms of overseas travel. More about that later.

As this will be the final Cavalcade edition before Christmas might I take this opportunity to extending to all Association members and their families best wishes for the forthcoming festive season and new year holiday period which I hope is safe and enjoyable for you all. Hopefully we will catch up with as many of you as possible at the raft up on 6th December next and subsequently at the State Championships in February.

Warm regards,

Stephen O'Halloran

President – Cavalier 28 Association