

CAVALCADE

CHRISTMAS EDITION DECEMBER 2004

Seasons greetings and best wishes to all members of our little boat owners association, we few, we happy few, we band of brothers – to borrow a phrase from the Bard himself.

I do hope that this December edition of Cavalcade so finds you in good spirits and equally robust health.

At the time of writing (second week of December) we have just completed our State Championships and are approaching the halfway mark in our long season point scores.

Our last race for this half of the season will be held on 11th December next which is an ordinary long season point score race together with a Norm Brown Trophy race wrapped therein. The roll up for the combined races has been quite healthy with an average of 12/13 boats participating. The non Norm Brown Saturdays usually average 6 or 7 competitors.

It has been very pleasing to see newcomers Quattro (David Brown, Andrea Karamacher) and Kirrilla (Pat Munro) getting up there and having a go. Very encouraging to see as we always do welcome and encourage new boats into the racing fleet.

With regard to our various competitions I can report at this stage as follows:

1. Spring Point Score

- (a) Scratch - at this stage with one race to go for this half of the season the wily old fox Rod Mitchell has his long nose and whiskers just in front of Justin Pelly and Sean Rahilly in Quambi (Centaurus 5 Quambi 8.75). Bruce Bowden and Scott Lamb in Trikerie Bay are in third place (16).

Handicap – at this stage with one race to go our boat Blind Justice is in the lead a few points (8.75) clear of our next rival Mark Donnelley and Andrew Barnes in Devil's Advocate (13) with Trikerie Bay in third place (15.5).

2. Norm Brown Trophy

- (a) Scratch – the tussle between Quambi and Centaurus continues with both boats on 6.75 vying for the title with U2 (Brian McConaghy) and Christina iii (Richard Christian) both on 16 points.

(b) Handicap – at this stage with one race to go for this half of the season U2 and Blind Justice are sharing the lead (each on 11.75) closely followed by Mark Donnelley and Andrew Barnes in Devil’s Advocate (on 14) with Cec Williams and Brian Moore in Joka (on 17) sitting on third. In both the long season point score and Norm Brown the points differential between top placed boats is very tight and the current leader board could well change radically if some crews sail below or above expectations on the 11th. Good luck to all concerned.

3. Mini Regatta Series

At the time of writing we have had three mini regattas the first being on the 18th September with 3 races successfully completed, the second mini regatta was literally blown out by a 30 plus knot sou’wester on the 13th November and the third regatta was held last Saturday. At the time of writing I have not received an official points score from the RSYs but looking at the results for the completed regattas we have had so far, the best performing boats would appear to be as follows:

Scratch – Centaurus (line honours in every race sailed so far – Rod Mitchell and his crew will just have to try a bit harder!)
Quambi,
Shoshana

Handicap – a bit difficult to work out precisely but doing the best I can it would seem that the front runners in the handicap division would be Joka, Shoshana and Centaurus

4. State Championships.

The State Championships for our Association were conducted by the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club over the weekends of Sunday 21 and Sunday 28th of November. The committee’s decision to switch the event from February/March paid dividends in that we were able to complete the six scheduled races. Whilst breeze was on the light side there was fortunately sufficient wind to get around the course in reasonable time with the last races on each day being conducted in reasonably moderate winds. We had a fleet of 11 only this year which is somewhat disappointing given our numbers in previous years (18 if my memory serves me correctly for 2003) however, I know that there are many varied and valid reasons why some crews were unable to participate. The RPEYC once again conducted an extremely efficient and well run regatta and to Tony Denham and his staff at the club our sincere thanks. Looking at the results with a broad

brush approach it is quite clear that in virtually of all the races there was often less than a minute separating the first 7 or 8 boats to finish.

A special thanks to Geoff Fogarty and his crew from Presto who made the trip down from Pittwater for the event. With Presto winning on scratch in race 2 and performing creditably in all other races I know that our crew were doing the old "who are these guys". Presto finished a very creditable 4th on handicap. Well done.

A thoroughly enjoyable regatta and once again to those who have not as yet entered in the event or did not enter this year please join us next year.

The results announced at the post race festivities at the RPEYC were as follows

Scratch – Virtique (Scott Lawson),
Quambi (Justin Pelly/Sean Rahilly)
Centaurus (Rod Mitchell)

Handicap - Blind Justice (Stephen O'Halloran/Greg McGroder)
Joka (Cec Williams/Brian Moore)
Quambi

For those wishing to obtain full details of all races, times, margins etc they can be accessed through the RPEYC website being www.rpeyc.com.au

5. Christmas Break and Resumption of Racing

Our last race for this half of the season will be conducted on 11th December next. We then have a break over the Christmas Holiday period resuming on 15th January next with a long season race and our first Norm Brown Trophy race for the new year will be conducted on Saturday 29th January.

Our season thereafter continues normally with the last race being scheduled for 12th March. The Norm Brown Trophy races and the new year period are scheduled for 29th January, 5th February, 19th February and 12th March.

6. Social Events for the early new year.

Would all members please, if they are interested, make a note in their diary for the Council of Professions Sailing Day which will be conducted on Sydney Harbour on Wednesday 23rd February next. This is a most enjoyable and pleasant day and I thoroughly recommend it those who can join in. There is usually a good roll up from the ranks of the dentists, architects, medicos, lawyers and the like. Our Rod Mitchell

is the contact man (w. 9816 5122) and I know that he is very keen to try and secure a good roll up. The day is most pleasant, a short race around the harbour without spinnakers, finishing up at Store Beach with draught beer and prawns for lunch and prize givings. Thoroughly recommended.

Entry forms can be obtained from Rod Mitchell and there is a \$15.00 per person entry fee. In addition to his telephone number Rod can be contacted via e-mail at Rod & Jan Mitchell "mitchell@smartchat.net.au"

The Greenwich Flying Squadron will once again be holding the "around the islands" race on Saturday 16th April to coincide with their last race of the season. This is a highly enjoyable and interesting race in entirely different conditions to what we are used to, finishing up at the GFS with a barbecue at the clubhouse over the Lane Cove River. It is a spinnaker race, keenly contested and a very nice way to finish off the sailing season. I strongly recommend the event to members. Notices of race and entry forms will be distributed in due course.

7. Annual Dinner

The annual dinner and prize giving will be held probably in April at a date and venue yet to be determined. I am aware that in recent years the increasing cost of the dinner has been a concern to all and your committee is very mindful of attempting to deliver a function which is within budget of most but at the same time delivering a sufficient degree of formality to mark the occasion. Would anybody out there who has some bright ideas about a good venue please feel free to ring me with your suggestions or thoughts. From long and hard experience I can assure you that attempting to put on a sit down 2/3 course meal at a venue such as the CYC or RSYS including alcohol is unfortunately going to cost in the vicinity of \$100.00 a head.

I will be making some enquiries from other venues (not necessarily sailing clubs) to see if I can track down something that might be less expensive but just as pleasant. Any contributions to the discussion would be most gratefully received.

8. Sails and Rules

You will recall that in the last edition of cavalcade I requested some feed back from the membership on the issue of a rule change so as to permit the construction of a 1½ or "heavy air" number 1 headsail. With 2 exceptions I have had no other response. To officially approve such sail the rules would need to be amended by a resolution passed at an extraordinary meeting of the Association at which a 2/3 majority of those entitled to vote either personally or by way of proxy would need to support the resolution. I really do not want to waste everyone's time by calling a meeting for which there is no support for such proposition.

For reasons I have advanced I personally favour the concept however, please be assured that I have no intention of attempting to force my will or that of any other person upon the association membership. My intention is to simply act as a vehicle to deliver whatever the wishes of the membership may be on any particularly issue, including this.

As I see it, we can either continue on as present, leaving the issue unresolved, and in my view in a somewhat unsatisfactory state whereby any member who has such a sail or intends to have such sail constructed may possibly find themselves open to a successful protest for having a non complying sail. Alternatively the issue could be clarified once and for all by amending the class rule so as specifically provide for a 1 ½ headsail the specifications for which has been previously debated – no further argument.

Accordingly, unless the committee receives some reasonable indication of support for a rule change the matter will lie where it presently rests – you pay your money and take your chances, as they say.

May I accordingly take this opportunity to extend to all our association members, their families and crew who sail upon their boats a happy and safe Christmas, an enjoyable break over the Christmas/New Year period and a prosperous and happy 2005. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible next Saturday for our last race before Christmas.

Stephen O'Halloran
President
Cavalier 28 Association