



DECEMBER 2009

Just having completed our 6th race, we are now contemplating a break of 5 weeks until our next race on the 16th January 2010. Coming hard on the heels of a 3 week gap since our 5th race (and what a beauty that was – more later) myself and the crew of Blind Justice cannot help but feel a little underdone in terms of competitive racing for this season. There are a number of factors that go to determine the scheduling of races and it does seem that for this season the holding of our 5th, 6th and 7th races separated by a period of 8 weeks is too big a gap and your committee will endeavour to arrange and produce a much better scheduling in conjunction with the Amateurs for next season.

Speaking from a purely personal point of view, whilst I do quite enjoy the luxury of having every second Saturday free to act as head gardener, labourer, painter, carpenter, pool maintenance man and viewer of obscure but very tasteful “chick flicks”, I do find myself thinking that we are at the mid point of our season and we do not really seem to have had done much racing. Mmm, makes one think back fondly to the old days of every Saturday. Perhaps something to be reconsidered in due course.

What a spectacularly successful race was the 5th race on 21 November 2009 where we had 7 boats finishing in just a tad over 2 minutes from the gun. 45 seconds separated third from sixth. I have been sailing with the Division since 1995 and I am sure that there has not been a closer finish for the bulk of the fleet on a regular Saturday race.

If you look at the results for this year so far as a guide, you will see that in race 1, the margin between first and sixth was 11 minutes, race 2 – 7 minutes, race 3 – 5 minutes, race 4 – 8 minutes and race 5 – a few seconds under 2 minutes for the first 6 place getters. That was extraordinary. The margin on Saturday between the first 6 place getters was just over 5 minutes.

Last Saturday was a hard day at the office, in that 20+ knot Nor'easter. My body ached, but not as much as my heart as a gear problem on the last leg cost us BIG time! Almost in sight of the finish! Damn! HEAVY breeze will do that sort of thing!

With 6 races completed the usual suspects Centaurus, U2 and Shoshana have all chalked up two wins each. In the PHS department Shoshana, Marabou, Flying Circus, Scuttlebutt, Quambi and Christina have all secured wins. My prediction is that as with previous years the final podium positions will still up for grabs until the last race on 20th March 2010.

The competition is very keen to say the least and it is darn hard to do well. This is what one design sailing is all about of course and it is hugely encouraging to see the fleet so competitive.

Our season resumes on 16th January next with races scheduled for 16th and 30th January, 13th and 27th February and our last race on 20th March. In the meantime we have of course the Audi Regatta/State Championships to be conducted over the weekend of 6th and 7th March. Those of you who participated in the Audi Regatta last year will remember that we had near perfect sailing conditions and it was a tremendous regatta. With the short courses the fleet is usually closely bunched and a podium finish is really up for grabs in every race. Your Committee would be delighted to see a healthy turnout which apart from making exciting racing is also, from the self interested point of view, great advertising for the class in terms of maintenance of value for our boats in being able to point to a well patronised and keenly fought State Championship each year. I fully appreciate that

committing to two full days is sometimes domestically challenging but given adequate notice and appropriate bribery I am sure achievable. A very warm invitation is extended to those boats that do not normally race with us in our regular Saturday races in particular the several Cavs moored at the GFS at Greenwich. Perhaps the pooling of crew resources to put in a team entry of three or four boats from the GFS would be a very worthwhile concept. It would make a huge difference to our numbers. Something to think about. The notice of race and the sailing instructions will be issued in the not too distant future. Please remember that there will be a distribution of prizes and a get together at the Sydney Amateurs after the last race as per the format that we had with the RPEYC for many years.

The Greenwich Flying Squadron Twilight race on 23rd November was an occasion enjoyed by all who participated. Blind Justice would have been there but for the fact that on the previous day we had the Law Society Sailing day and the aging BJ crew were too tired and emotional after that event to back up for the next day. For those who have not sailed the upper harbour course it is a rewarding and enjoyable experience and thoroughly worth the effort. The Committee will endeavour to organise for further twilight race with the GFS in 2010 where the “down harbour” boats can again participate.

That is all from your Committee at the halfway point of the Season. May I extend on behalf of the Cav 28 Committee our collective best wishes for the festive season and hope that you, your crews and family all have a happy, safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

Very much looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable racing programme in the new year.

Regards

STEPHEN O'HALLORAN
Secretary
Cavalier 28 Association.