



## **CHRISTMAS EDITION CAVALCADE**

**DECEMBER 2010**



Our celebrations to mark the birth of Christ are upon us once again and just as we seem to have got into the swing of our racing season and the half time siren has already sounded.

For the Spring season, 7 races were scheduled however Race Number 3 was abandoned due to extreme weather conditions and accordingly 6 races only were completed. At the season mid point the front runners on scratch are, not surprisingly the usual suspects Centaurus, U2 and Shoshanna and on PHS Christina, Joka and Centaurus, with the Mitchell family putting in a strong bid for a double podium finish.

Christina has certainly had a brilliant start to the season securing two firsts and two seconds on PHS in the first 4 completed races. Indeed so impressive has Christina's form been that in Race 6 she was first boat to the top mark! Her performance in the first half of the season has certainly been the talking point around the waterfront bars and yacht clubs of Sydney Harbour. Is there a wing keel lurking under the waterline or is it just a case of the old formula of good management, good sailing and good luck?!

Most of the races have been conducted in medium to strong north easterly winds in particular Races 5 and 6 when the North Easter was averaging 20 knots plus and steering downwind under spinnaker became – exciting to say the least. Even under small spinnaker the downwind legs in most of the races have been testing in the extreme. For those who prefer a less stressful day on the harbour, it's amazing how far a poled out headsail in strong breeze will carry you without losing much ground at all!

The only exception to the consistent North East courses for the Spring season was Race 1 which was a real lottery where with the wind completely changing direction several times and I do recall the peculiar sensation of sailing course Z with spinnaker up, headsail down, spinnaker down, headsail up repeated on a number of occasions on several windward legs. Finishing under spinnaker in Shell Cove was bizarre to say the least.

The fleet is generally fairly bunched together with the exception of Centaurus and U2 who usually establish a commanding lead which the rest of the fleet usually finds impossible to close.

Race 6 saw some mayhem with Quambi losing its mast on the first up wind leg and Quattro being knocked out of the race on the last downwind leg as a result of round up 360° horror show just short of the Garden Island mark. For Quambi, corrosion in the swage was I understand the culprit, a problem I am more than familiar with, having lost our mast in similar circumstances on Blind Justice in 1997. I regularly squirt water repellent into the turn buckle in the hope that it slows down the inevitable corrosion that occurs at the swage out of sight.

I am sure that we are all aware that insurers nowadays require standing rigging to be replaced at least every 7 years. Some insurers I believe requiring it to be replaced every 5 years. We are due to have ours replaced next year, having had a re-rig in 2005.

We now have a break until 15<sup>th</sup> January when Race 8 resumes.

It has been good to see Kirralla join us on a number of races as well as Scuttlebutt turning out with greater frequency than previous seasons. Well done. We really need a critical mass of at least 10 boats to make a decent race.

With regard to the second half of the season and matters scheduled for next year, a few notes for your diary:

1. The Audi Regatta/State Championships March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Let's try and make the Cav 28 Division once again, the largest one design class in whole Regatta! Come on you Cavaliers, get organised and let's see if we can get a fleet of 14 or 15 boats out on the harbour to make a real statement about our class.
2. Last race of the season 9<sup>th</sup> April. As with previous years, it is likely that the silverware will not be decided until the last race.
3. Annual prize giving dinner 6<sup>th</sup> May to be held at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, always a great night, make sure you book early as seating is limited.
4. AGM 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Whilst our boats are undeniably small in comparison to what else is out there on the harbour on the weekend I was only looking at some of our fleet during the

last race and when looked at from a leeward position and from slightly ahead, a Cav with Number One Headsail and Main close hauled powered up in 15 knots of breeze and smooth water still remains a pretty impressive sight.

On behalf of the Cav 28 Committee, I extend to you all seasons greetings and hope that you have a happy, safe and enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to seeing many of you on the water in mid-January.

Stephen O'Halloran  
Secretary  
Cavalier 28 Association.