

CAVALIER 28 ASSOCIATION

CALVACADE AUGUST 2013

Nature is a remarkable thing. In the front of my house there is a pear tree - a deciduous variety which flowers prolifically during the Summer producing small but inedible pears and in the Autumn gradually begins to lose its foliage and as if with stopwatch precision the last of its leaves fall to the ground on or about 30th July each year leaving the tree a completely bare jumble of spindly sticks. At the very same time as the last of the pear trees leaves hit the lawn there begins to emerge from the base of the tree the first green shoots of some bulbs planted at the base of the tree by my wife many years ago. There they lie beneath the surface of the lawn for months on end and as if by some secret communication passing between the tree and the bulbs there is a clear message signaled namely the long winter months have now passed and it's time to ready ourselves for the new season as we Cavaliers must now do.

I know many of you will find this difficult to believe, but our first race for the new season is only 3 weeks away. We all better get our act together as mentally, I am still stuck in the middle of June in that fortnight of endless rain. As embarrassed as I am to admit it, the boat has not been out of its pen at the CYC since early May, but with the days so short and the cold it is a bit difficult to work up much enthusiasm to go for a sail. Consequently my only contact for the last few months with sailing has been to visit the boat on the weekend, pump out the inevitable rain that found its way into the bilge and other compartments, give the engine a run, change over a few ropes with new ones of a different colour and generally just potter around for a short time then close up and repeat the same routine next weekend.

Coincidentally, I find a very helpful bit of therapy is replacing things like kickers, topping lifts, mainsheets, running backstays and the like with new material. I get a bit bored looking at the same bit of old bit of rope for more than a season or two and as these particular ropes do not need exotic non stretch material such as Dynema or Spectra these other ropes are usually quite cheap and for the sake of a few dollars you can have lots of new and very smart looking pieces of equipment on the boat. The only downside to all this is of course completely confusing your crew with regard to the layout of the boat. Worthy association members do probably not require any reminder from me to attend to the usual Spring list of things to do boat wise — but I will do it anyway. It may help if anything has been overlooked in your preparation of your boat for the season.

Things to do — not necessarily in the order or priority:

1. Routine annual anti foul — we have been using on Blind Justice the International Paints Ultra, a hard finish which the diver who gives our hull a scrub every 2 or 3 weeks during the racing season tells me that it is one of the best finishes for the underwater sections in the boats that he services.
2. A rigging check/mast head inspection and inspection of halyards which may need to be switched around or re-spliced.
3. The engine service.
4. A winch service

5. A serious declutter of the cabin I am always amazed at how things accumulate if you don't keep a watchful eye out.
6. A sail check. I always take our racing sails off the boat at the end of each season and then give them a good wash and rinse and then a thorough dry out in the sun before being packed into their bags and then placed under my house for their winter hibernation.

Finally, there is, of course, the matters to be attended to in order to successfully pass the safety examiner for the Category 7 Certificate. In that regard they have amended the Rules of Sailing again so you will need to equip yourself with an up to date "blue book".

So what lies ahead for the forthcoming season?. Firstly, you will no doubt be aware that the racing season commences somewhat early this year with our first race being on Saturday, 14 September 2013. I do hope the weather has warmed up by then and I hope the weather gods are kind to us on the day. Over the years, it seems to quite often occur that on our first race when everyone is all fingers and thumbs, we have a strong, cold sou'wester to deal with — exactly the start you don't need for the season. For us in Blind Justice, it will probably be the first time that any of the Blind Justice crew will have been on board since the end of the last season!

Thereafter, we settle into our usual racing programme, which for this year will, in many respects, be similar to previous seasons. At the time of dictation of this newsletter, I have not received the SASC programme however, probably by the time the newsletter is completed, the SASC will have forwarded to you their programme for 2013/14.

An important point to remember is that for this year, on a trial basis, the Cavalier 28 State Championships will be conducted as a non-spinnaker event, with a 3 race programme, scheduled for Sunday, 20 October 2013. The scourge of summer weddings strikes again and as 2 members of the Blind Justice team will be participating in a weekend of festivities in far western New South Wales, we are a doubtful starter.

Those members who attended the Association AGM will be aware that the rationale behind this concept was to hopefully entice some boats that have not previously participated in the State Championships to join in in a forum that will be much less demanding crew wise, without spinnakers. A 3 race programme during the day followed by a get together at the Sydney Amateurs should prove to be a most enjoyable occasion.

Being spinnaker less, you may well be able to get by without those prima donna, show pony rock stars who ponce around on the sharp end and strut their stuff for very brief periods of time, launching and recovering brightly coloured bits of nylon and expect to be thanked ceaselessly for it, when you, the hard working, poor bloody owner, toiling away endlessly on the helm with the pressure on you for every second of the entire race get no acknowledgment! Being a non-spinnaker event, this is your opportunity to show how great starting tactics, impeccable windward sail trim and boat handling and brilliant tactical decision making are the true indicators of Class.

No more will you be grinding your teeth to a powder at the windward mark, when some of the other boats have their spinnakers up and flying in under 10 seconds and you impotently watch your rock star fiddling around with a topping lift kicker, halyard and all the other bits and pieces for what seems to be an endless time.

So, all in all, it promises an event not to be missed. If we get a half decent day, the racing programme will be short and sharp, the get together afterwards is always most enjoyable and the cost to current financial Association members is zero with the Association picking up the race fees charged by the SASC and the only charge for persons wishing to enter but who are not Association members, will be the princely sum of \$60.00 which will then entitle you to all of the benefits of members of the illustrious Cavalier 28 Association.

On the subject of the benefits of being an Association member, one of the little known facts is that the Association has the ownership of the rudder molds for the boats. The rudder molds held by the Association are the original square ended variety, not the "spitfire wing" molds that were used to create many rudders for Cavalier 28s, although the spitfire wing variety was in fact designed for the Adams 10.

Over the last few years there have been a number of instances where older rudders have delaminated and failed — quite an exciting experience travelling downwind at speed under spinnaker! In light of the failure of a number of rudders in recent years, our boat obtained a new rudder via the Association molds — carbon fibre, considerably lighter than the predecessor and having a square bottom section seems to generate a bit more "grip" — less weather helm and better downwind control.

So, dear members, that's about it for this Spring edition of our newsletter. The Committee is really trying hard to open up the State Titles to all Cav 28 owners and we hope you will respond accordingly.

Stephen O'Halloran
Association Secretary

Stephen O'Halloran

From: Stephen O'Halloran
Sent: 15/08/2013 11:51 AM
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Subject: SPRING 2013 CAVALCADE
Attachments: 20130815113911004.pdf

Dear Chaps,

Please find attached the Spring Edition of Cavalcade.

Kind regards,

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