



Couta Boat Club

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite a bit of inclement weather during early January it looks like being a wonderful season yet again. I would like to convey thanks to all those who assisted in both arranging and helping run the initial Couta Boat Southerly Buster and trophy presentation, which I am sure will become an annual event. I should also like to thank again the Sailing Committee who conducted the Portsea Fishing Boat Regatta, who I am assured are equal to any other Committee available in Australia and indeed without their help, the race would be a non-event. Finally, I think the Club should be cognisant of the wonderful job that Petersville have done in hosting a very well run three race series, the likes of which, would be impossible without commercial sponsorship. Whilst a lot of Club Members take this sort of Regatta for granted, it should be noted that our Sponsors were somewhat disappointed with the Club representation in the first race and accordingly I hope to see far more boats represent the Club in each of the three races next year. We look forward to seeing as many boats as possible at Queenscliff for the Regatta which this year is being run by the Club and at subsequent events. Finally, I wish all Club Members well for the New Year and Happy Sailing.
Cheers,

President Marcus.

DUGGA SAILS A BLINDER

Dugga Beazley gave a fleet of nearly forty Couta Boats a sailing lesson in light, variable airs in the Ninth Annual Portsea Fishing Boat Regatta. Dugga picked the right end of the Starting Line in a very light north easterly breeze which faded shortly after the start. The weather was a great disappointment in many respects as it was the first light day after several days of very fresh southerlys. Whilst the leading boats were in the third leg of the course a local cool front came through, dropping the air temperature bringing with it some cloud and slightly fresher breeze. However, this faded away as the sun came through the cloud, the temperature rose and the breeze died away to absolutely nothing again. Through these variable conditions, Dugga maintained and lengthened his lead over the next group of yachts sailing exceptionally well in very, very difficult conditions. The afternoon was a great disappointment in that only ten boats managed to finish within the time limit. Many boats found themselves becalmed in the South Channel fighting against a flood tide. Second on handicap in this Race was "Kate" sailed by Bill Davis and third was "Sally" sailed by David Baillieu. Finishing order was "Pearl", "Sally" and "Kate". Fourth and Fifth on handicap were also double-enders from the Port Melbourne area, proving yet again that these boats sail very well in light conditions with a little reaching and running involved.

"CORSAIR" WINS PETERSVILLE SERIES

"Corsair" sailed by John and Alan Ross won the three race Petersville Series for the second time in three years. This year the three races were sailed in generally fair conditions although the morning starts made getting away cleanly something of a lottery. It is gratifying to see an increasing number of Couta Boats supporting the Petersville Series as this series does deserve continuing participation from our Club. Second place in the three race series was taken by "Amanda" Tim Phillips and "Lucy" Warrick Leeming was third. An examination of the results for "Corsair", "Amanda" and "Lucy" proves two important points connected with successful series racing. The first is, sail all races in the series and the second, sail consistently. "Corsair" won the series with a fourth, first, seventh, "Amanda" was second with a second, ninth and fifth and "Lucy" third with a first, sixth and tenth. This point is further demonstrated by examining the results for "Pearl" and "Enterprise". "Pearl" achieved a third and a second and "Enterprise" a second and a third. Neither of these boats sailed in the first heat. Had they done so the result might well have been different.

VICTORIA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS YACHT RACE

This race was co-hosted by Sorrento Sailing Club and Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron as part of the State 150th Celebrations. The Couta Boat Club provided what was probably the largest fleet for the day with thirty starters. This race was sailed in moderate conditions which eased towards the end, particularly for the smaller boats, and provided an interesting comparison between the leading 26 foot Couta Boats and Etchells. The Etchells started five minutes behind the Couta Boats, sailed the same course, to finish only a minute ahead of the Couta Boat line honors winner "Sally". It should be pointed out that the Etchells had the benefit of spinnakers on a very square run out towards the South Channel. Results were, line honours "Sally" David Baillieu and on handicap, "Wattyl" first, President Marcus, "Volunteer", Charlie Strong second and third, "Minerva", Peter Graham.

3AW PARMELIA RACE

Although this race is not part of the official Couta Boat Club calendar, the Club is most grateful to 3AW for providing a fun race and for also for giving the Club a bit of air-time in promoting the Class. One of the conditions of the race is that immediately prior to the start a pseudo Sailing Committee have to put together a course that can be sailed and finished inside an hour for the bulk of the fleet in order to assemble the various Skippers and Crew on the lawn of the Portsea Hotel for both interviews and prize giving. This year saw an off the wind start in a fairly fresh south/south wester with a Starting Line off the end of the Portsea Pier. The first mark was the Point Franklin Buoy then to No. 3 South Channel then to the yellow South Channel Fairway Buoy followed by a fairly boisterous beat into shore through the Start Line which was also the Finish. The race was sailed very quickly with "Kate" breaking away to a lead which it just maintained from "Minerva" through to the second mark, which then saw "Wattyl" taking ground out of the lead boats, culminating in a very exciting finish, which saw on corrected times only twelve seconds between first and third boats. Places being "Kate", "Minerva" and "Wattyl". The Club is hopeful that 3AW will promote a similar race next year through Ross Campbell's Summer Programme.

SOUTHERLY BUSTER - AMAZING, STUNNING, FANTASTIC, INCREDIBLE SUCCESS

This really is a case of, "if you weren't there, bad luck", because our first Couta Boat Function held after the Portsea Fishing Boat Regatta was really an outstanding night. There is no doubt that all things being equal this will become a regular event on the calendar. It was very gratifying to see nearly three hundred members, friends

and locals attend this function. Early indications are that the Club will enjoy a substantial financial benefit from the evening so this particular objective was achieved as well as the objective of bringing everyone together for a social function. Many thanks to convenors Clive Beckingsale and Peter Burke, to Tim Phillips for donating Krebs Boatshed as a fantastic venue, to the workers who turned up to clean up the shed, which Tim was exceptionally grateful for, and to Jane Burke for the amazing job with the flags and other decorations, to the Caterer, the food was excellent, and to the Sorrento Hotel for organizing the distribution of the booze, and to the Disco-Man.

SAFETY

Tim Phillips our Safety Officer reports that following inspections of nearly 90% of Club Boats, there has been this season a remarkable improvement in safety standards. Again this is most gratifying for the Committee to observe this transformation compared with previous years. We are pleased that the message concerning safety appears to be getting through and that people are recognizing that safety is a serious issue and are equipping their boats accordingly.

On another safety matter, Tim Phillips, on behalf of the Club, has acquired two hand held radios. These are available from Tim for anyone who is contemplating a trip up or down the Bay and requires the additional safety that an on-board radio can provide. They are quite powerful with a range of thirty to forty miles and are linked in to the Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad frequencies. We do commend anyone doing trips up and down the Bay, particularly not in company with other Couta Boats, to borrow these radios in the event of any outside assistance being required.

NEWS OF BOATS

Michael Gibson now has "Wyn" at Chris Young's for restoration. The project is expected to be completed in two to three months time.

Tim Phillips is also well advanced with the restoration of "Surprise", the keel, stern post, and by the time Members read this Newsletter, the transom are now in place. Tim is confident the boat will restore very, very well.

Peter Kubale and Roger Wischhausen have found "Anne" in the Glenelg River at Nelson. She is now at Sorrento and will soon be restored.

Jill Ryland has commissioned Ken Lacco to design a new 26 footer along similar lines to "Kate". The boat will be built by Tim Phillips later this year. Based on the way "Kate" has been sailing, the performance of the new boat will also be something to look at next season.

PETER LOCKE

Tim Phillips advises that Peter Locke has moved to 214 Hope Street, Geelong West. His phone number is (052) 98993. Peter would welcome visits from Couta Boat Members if you are in the Geelong area at any time. He is recovering from a stroke suffered last year and really does enjoy a chat about the boats we are all so vitally interested in.

NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS

There is one matter which is causing the Committee of the Couta Boat Club some concern. We have noticed several boats racing this Season without Sail Numbers. We are aware that some owners do have objections to Sail Numbers. However, benefits that are accruing to

the Couta Boat Club at the moment include - other Yacht Clubs willing to host races for us, participation in special regattas, the V.Y.C., may place us in a special category related to promotion of sailing in Victoria - all of which will be at risk unless we have all our boats racing with Sail Numbers. The Committee have been both fair and lenient to date with respect to excuses for no Sail Numbers but we really cannot let this matter slide for much longer, so next season, watch out!

One other little difficulty concerns Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron. We have been approached by that Club concerning our boats joining in to their racing during the week, mainly after the racing has started.

This is causing some aggrevation at Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron and is very simply resolved. All Couta Boat Club Members are welcome to sail at Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron at any time provided they enter the racing in the normal way and provided they start on the Starting Line with the rest of the fleet. Joining in part way round the track is causing some concern.

So there it is, the bad news is over, it's really simple, our boats must have Sail Numbers and if we are going to race with other fleets at Yacht Clubs, do the right thing, enter the race and start on the Starting Line with other boats.

"WATTYL" ON THE ROCKS

No, this is not some exotic cocktail discovered at Krebbs Boat Yard Party. Its to do with an impromptu cruise several Couta Boats undertook to Barwon Heads recently. Marcus Burke carried out some hydrographic survey work, obviously to assist the Navy should they ever wish to enter the Barwon River and has discovered a previously uncharted, unmarked, unknown reef. It is now known as part of it was impaled on the hull of "Wattyl". Fortunately there was minimum damage to both "Wattyl" and President Marcus' pride. It should be noted that other boats participating in the cruise ignored the temptations to undertake any hydrographic survey work of their own, lowered sails and motored into the Barwon River without any kind of mishap whatsoever.

ADMIRALS CUP TRIALS

As many Members would be aware, the Admirals Cup Selection Trials commence on March 2nd at Sandringham Yacht Club. There will be a number of Couta Boats based at the northern end of the Bay for the initial races in the series. Anyone who wants to go out to have a look at the largest fleet of high-tech Ocean Racing Yachts ever assembled for these Trials should contact Secretary Bill on 429-3569 on the eve prior to them wanting to go out to see the racing so that arrangements can be made with adequate notice. It is also the intention of the Admirals Cup Selectors to sail several races in the vicinity of Portsea. We suggest you pay particular attention to the daily press to find out the exact programming of these events. Twenty-two yachts have officially confirmed entry into the Selection Trials.

AND AS THE SYNOPTIC CHART
SHOWS.... THAT SOUTHERLY
WAS A TOUCH STRONGER THAN
WE FORECAST!

