



SCOOP

Newsletter of the
Couta Boat Club

Incorporated

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QUEENSLIFF REGATTA, SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

A blustery morning saw the Northerly die out around lunchtime, and after a wet trip to the fishermans basin at the Cliff, the usual raft up was enjoyed by the 20 Couta boats that made this nostalgic visit. "Jocker Todd", Peter Locke, Lucy Lacco and others of the old Queenscliff fishermans brigade were there to welcome us and the atmosphere as always was great.

Tim Phillips in charge of the race, with Jack Mardling and Geoff Morrow assisting, insists that everyone involved pressed for his "reaching start" at 2.30 p.m. A fading breeze and lots of competitive adrenalin saw several protest flags hit the air as the starters gun fired and the boats piled into each other, notably Kate and The Rip. A great close race ensued, with the wind just hanging in and much skill being displayed, particularly by those who got around the marks well, in the by now raging flood tide.

Our worthy race officials shortened course directly off Queenscliff Pier and later after none of three protests altered the results, the line honours went to Dugga in the Pearl, who just pipped Bill Davis in Kate. First on Handicap was Regina (M. Bryan), second Kate, and third Pearl.

The presentations saw veritable treasure trove of trophies awarded. Queenscliff Race Director Phillips called up Mark Nowak to present him with the Connemara Cup (as herein reported). A hand bearing compass installed in a beautiful turned timber base was Mark's rich reward for sailing so ably to Mornington alone and unassisted, for the Cup on Saturday, 25th January. The Connemara Cup, a perpetual trophy awarded for the first time was donated by Martin Bryan. Thanks to Don Siemering for the base. Williamstown Cup trophies from the highly successful Mornington weekend preceded the presentation of the Queenscliff trophies.

The Williamstown Cup, this year held at Mornington on Australia Day weekend, attracted a very good attendance, about 30 boats, Leigh Morgan coming from Williamstown in Coral Lee. The fresh SSW18-20 knot breeze held up for the duration of the race favouring the bigger of the Couta boats. Sally handed out a faultless display of power sailing, finishing about one mile ahead of Jilly Ryland's Ticonderoga and Surprise third. Handicap placings were Sally, Surprise and Ticonderoga.

A number of boats retired showing some basic sailing faults in what should have been a non-demanding sailing day.

The Mornington weekend encompassing the cruise on Saturday and race on Sunday has proved a great success. It is envisaged next year to provide some light catering in the form of salads, etc. to make it a bit easier for the Saturday night BBQ at the Yacht Club.

Thanks also go to Club member Chris Mills who supplied great coverage for the Club and the events on the new Peninsula Community Radio Station 3 RPP, over the long weekend.

QUEENSCLIFF TROPHY PRESENTATION

Jocker Todd, assisted by his sister unveiled for the first time a magnificent and most appropriate Honour Roll in the shape of a Cousta boat's transom, the "Walter Todd Memorial Trophy". Presentation was made to Dugga, and Mr. Todd confirmed that the trophy was to take pride of place in the recently restored life boat shed at Queenscliff.

Thanks to all who ran and assisted in making this a great event, particularly Jocker Todd and John Beasley, not to mention the race officials, and Jack Mardling making his boat and time available again.

Proceeds from the Queenscliff race entry fees are once again directed to the Lifeboat Restoration Fund.

CONNEMARA CUP CRUISE

The Inaugural Connemara Cup Cruise to Mornington was held on Saturday, January 25th. It was a great event which was eventually won by Mark Nowak in Lavina. Mark sailing single handed also took like honours. The breeze was consistently from the South throughout the cruise and participants included a great number of women and children, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Jill Ryland on Ticonderoga sailed with an "all girl" crew who drank nothing but French Champagne all the way to Mornington. We just question whether Antoinette Hoppe, the Steerer of Jill's boat has had an overdose of male hormones! Apparently, at one stage between the Hovell and Mornington, the whole team aboard Surprise, with the exception of the Helmsman, was sound asleep, that certainly shows style! Nine year old Dan Ingall basically sailed Minerva all the way from Portsea to Mornington while the crew raided the "stubby bank". "Kate" with some seven children on board was never short of relieving Helmsmen and accordingly the adults on board were able to make numerous withdrawals from the "bank"! Clive Beckingsale sailed Victory single handed to Mornington as he thought the party was leaving him. All in all everyone had a wonderful time on the cruise.

The Williamstown Cup was held at Mornington on the Sunday in fairly fresh southerly breezes. It was wonderful sailing weather and a fairly true course. David Baillieu in Sally got a good start, got away early and was basically out in front all day and appeared at an early stage to be very hard to beat on handicap. In the end the order over the line was Sally first, Ticonderoga second, and Surprise third. However, the handicap situation was Sally beating Surprise by some thirty seconds on corrected time with Ticonderoga third. Seventeen starters and thirteen boats completed the course and it was hoped that next year the event will be even bigger and better.