

S A Y R A KEELBOAT COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee's new state handicapping system which resulted in a very close competition. Based on our experience gained this year, the committee has already accepted a number of suggestions to further improve the competition next year.

By the time you read this newsletter, the S A Y R A Keelboat All Clubs Race to Glenelg and return will have been sailed. We are proud to announce that John Lysaght (Aust) Ltd has agreed to sponsor this event, and we are looking forward to a large number of contestants.

The Small Boat Club are to be commended for the effort they have put into ensuring their 3 Day Gulf Race over the January long weekend is a success. A considerable amount of sponsorship has been obtained, and a number of well organised social activities are planned during the series. Details can be obtained from the Squadron Office, or the Small Boat Club. Please note that Squadron members have been invited to take part in this series, and therefore the R S A Y S will not conduct their own competition this year.

Squadron members not competing in other events over the January long weekend are invited to participate in the S A Y R A Keelboat's Australia Day Race to the Birdman Rally at Glenelg on Monday, 31st January '83.

BOB FRANCIS



HALF TON NEWS

The 1st heat of the Open Series for Half Ton Yachts took place in strong breezes. The most surprising aspect of this race was the closeness of the yachts racing. ESCAPADE (Rick Halliday) eventually seized the honours in the Entrance to Outer Harbor after sailing within a few metres of VALKYRIE (Ric Ottaway) all around the course. Unfortunately, Ric accidentally began prawning with his spinnaker, but subsequently recovered prawns, and speed, to be over the line with the leaders. ESCAPADE is a Spencer 30, and VALKYRIE a Pion, further proof of the outstanding similarities of these yachts designed during the same period. Another Spencer, AMATUANA (Tony Evans) served notice that the series is wide open again this year.

The 2nd heat was an Olympic course which attracted an even larger turn out. Once again, AMATUANA set the pace during the early part of the race over a well set course. As usual, the fleet bunched together, with an occasional flyer being taken by TROCHUS, VALKYRIE and BAD COMPANY. ESCAPADE finally proved that practice makes perfect, AMATUANA was 2nd and CAPRICE II (Jim Boucat and partners) gained 3rd place.

Congratulations to all starters; we look forward to a good season. Don't forget to wander onto each others boats after the races, and support the club at the bar.

JONATHON HARRY