

Letter to the Editor

It was with a considerable degree of nostalgia that I read in the September issue of *Squadron Quarterly* of the rejuvenation of the 12-foot Cadet Dinghy class within the Squadron and the very pertinent remarks of Sir James Hardy.

What may not be generally known was that right up until the Japanese entered World War II the Royal Australian Navy held such a high regard for this dinghy as a training and recreational facility that the six inch gun light cruiser HMAS *Hobart* (sister ship of the ill-fated *Sydney* and *Perth*) carried two of them, which were lifted over the ship's side

by the aircraft recovery crane when required in port.

They were carried by other Naval vessels too, and it was customary for sailing races to take place between the dinghies of the larger ships when circumstances permitted.

I was privileged to sail "twelve-footers" in such places as Alexandria, Haifa and Colombo, and was sad when they were finally landed.

John BW Rischbieth
18 November, 1992

ROBIN PENNOCK & ASSOCIATES

MARITIME CONSULTANTS

- Power Vessels relocated Australia wide
- Charts corrected
- Chart folios compiled
- General Seamanship and sea safety advice

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Quarterdeck

The Squadron prides itself on maintaining tradition. New members are told that it is laid down in the Constitution that the male official dress (in contrast to the official uniform) requires a black tie. This is a mark of mourning for the death of Lord Nelson. There is one tradition of the Royal Navy we could, and perhaps should, adopt. King William the Fourth (the sailor King) learned for himself the difficulty and discomfort of standing to drink the loyal toast in a congested cabin and while under way. He directed that in his vessels it should in future be honoured seated. Why don't we do the same? It would be a nice association, and for certain members much more comfortable than clumsily scrambling erect.

Come to think of it, that story about Nelson and the black tie seems a bit odd. Nelson never wore a tie in his life. At that time a gentleman and an officer wore a stock. Beau Brummell replaced breeches with trousers in about 1820, but Nelson was dead long since. Perhaps Brummell created the necktie too, but it was first recorded as working men's dress in 1838, when he was disgraced and dead. It definitely didn't exist in Nelson's day.

Wonders will never cease! Howard ("Boy") Trotter is usually high spirited and decidedly vocal on all subjects. At the Christmas luncheon, with obvious self-discipline, he refrained from commenting, interjecting, asking questions, or generously offering his opinion during and after the interesting address by Norman Peterson MP.

Chris Nye completed his first shakedown cruise over the Christmas period in his recently launched Phil Bolger designed yawl *Virginia Slocum*, which he built at the Duck Fleet Wooden Boats premises. She is

designed along the lines of the old Dutch barges. He and his crew sailed to Port Vincent and Kangaroo Island, with several stops along the way, and claimed an average speed of five knots.

Also on the cruising front, Alan and Stephanie Down thoroughly enjoyed their first sail to Kangaroo Island in their Elan 33 *Amourette*. They spent a couple of very pleasant days in Emu Bay on the north coast.

Rick Ottaway and crew now know exactly the extent of Donington Reef and how to give it a wide berth next time. *Valkyrie* struck it, but was able to sail home with a damaged hull. Josko Grubic could have told them what it was like. Years ago in the Lincoln Race he did the same in *Anaconda*, producing a dramatic rupture of his spinnaker as the big steel sloop suddenly stopped.

Caviar has departed on an extended cruise with joint owners David and Dee Henshall and Rob and Sue Gale aboard. They plan to sail to Hobart, then up the east coast to Darwin. At this stage they are not contemplating the west coast beyond that, but the account of the Kimberleys by the Ulletts in this issue may well tempt them to press on for a circumnavigation of the continent. Who can tell *Squadron Quarterly* how many Squadron boats have done that? In addition to *Youth* and *Anaconda II*, *Sarina* for one went around the world, but who from our pool has gone around Australia without venturing into foreign waters?

It is good to see our senior senior members participating so actively in the social aspects of the Club as well as in yachting. Life Member Alan Smith and Marjorie joined in the fun of the New Year's Eve dinner-dance, and had no apparent trouble staying awake