

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

With reference to my opening comments in the September edition, it now gives me great pleasure to advise all members that the changes to the club's Constitution have been perused and passed by members at a Special General Meeting held at the Clubrooms on 28th November 84.

We now conform to legislation and I personally thank the members who attended the meetings at which the proposals were discussed, for their obvious interest in club affairs and the future of the Squadron. It has been gratifying as Chairman of the meetings to observe the common sense, and well thought out and expressed comments from the floor on matters as complex and important as the areas we have just incorporated into the club's way of life. I am aware there is a view that the legislation is draconian and we should have fought it, but I think the objects of the Squadron to encourage and foster yachting, should cover anyone who is a fit and proper person dedicated to upholding the prestige of this senior club. We should be seen to be leading a fair and reasonable organisation making our own decisions on matters of social importance and not one being dragged through courts (with adverse and humiliating publicity) to be ordered to comply with modern 20th century standards - not a very enlightening circumstance for a club with a Royal Charter.

Now, I sincerely appeal to racing skippers in particular, that they ensure regular crew members on their yachts are members of the club and contributing their share to the cost of maintenance of the facilities they enjoy. No longer should we have complaints about the presence of non-members frequently attending the club, or their skippers decrying the high cost of joining them under the old membership.

Last Sunday, 25th November 84, a pleasant ceremony on the lawns was attended by Commander Robin Pennock, Naval Officer Commanding South Australia. He officially

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unveiled a plaque dedicated to the Squadron yachts which saw service in the World Wars as ships of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol. Among those present were former crew who were very welcome as guests of the Squadron. After the ceremony, the information they were able to give informally about the exploits of AVOCET, PARA, PEDARE, MARTINDALE and NYROCA, to name a few, were most interesting and have been noted by Commander Pennock who is writing a history of the Navy in South Australia.

The Squadron's association with the Navy over the last century has been very close, and with the history of both an important part of our heritage, I again request any member who has any memorabilia relevant to our past, to donate it to the club to be included in our proposed library and committee rooms, and for posterity.

As this will be the last newsletter before Xmas, I wish all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, with the added blessing of good weather and good sailing.

W V PRESTON

