

All Calm on the Racing Scene

Mike Hambidge

It's very hard to sail sailing boats when there's no wind with which to sail, and that makes it just a bit difficult to convey a convincing picture of hectic activity on the RSAYS racing scene over recent months.

The combined Winter pointscore series events were, mostly, notable for the accuracy of the reflections on the water (see the current *Year Book*), and the overall results showed that most of us need more practice in concentration on racing in a light breeze.

Congratulations to Bill Strangways, for proving that consistency brings its own reward.

Then, of course, our Summer season was launched with a whimper and a lot of frustration when the early wind shifted through 110° and then failed completely.



Alan Smith at the helm of Coinda.

In the end, despite course change and course shortening, no RSAYS Division 1 yachts found the line in time, two from Division 2 finished, and several from Division 3 actually got to the line — but were all subsequently disqualified for going round a mark the wrong way.

Consequent to all the above was a high level of annoyance among the barbecue team from the Juniors' ranks. Sausages just don't maintain their flavour on the hotplate overnight (if you get my drift).

Then we had our second inshore pointscore event on October 24 and, guess what? Flat calm and race abandoned! At least, no one can complain about their handicap!

It was good to see wind for the first Offshore event — to Ardrossan and back via Orontes Beacon, on October 17. In fact the fleet of 25 (12 of them from the RSAYS) copped everything from two to near 40 knots (from a variety of directions) and frequent sail-changing was the order of the day.

Generally, now that things have settled down on the weather front, it is evident we're well launched into a top season.

Entries in all classes are well up with last season and we welcome a good number of new yachts and new skippers over the whole fleet.

Twilight racing, with further expanded fleets and sponsorship, is again proving itself the social/sailing growth feature of our sport.

We wish Keith Flint, Bill Strangways and Bob Francis and their crews the best of everything for their Sydney-Hobart quest and we hope — a: *Helsal* II's mast stays up, b: *Speakeasy* doesn't leak and c: *Renegade's* 'sugar scoop' doesn't fall off.

Finally — Your Sailing Committee members are keen to make your season a success and are always open to (polite) suggestions.



Cruising Committee Report

Mike Fowler

The beginning of the season has been busy and rewarding for the Cruising Committee, with two Sundowners, an Information Night, Black Point Cruise, Youth Trophy, and the Birkenhead Tavern Cruise. Further events that will have been completed by the publication of this *Quarterly* are the Overnight Cruise to Pt Vincent and the last Sunday Sundowner before Christmas.

New Year's Eve at Rocky Point on, naturally, 31 December, is the next scheduled event. This Cruise will be co-ordinated by Clive Arnold (*Earranie*) and Alan Duncan (*Amarina*). The object of the cruise, which commences at your leisure, will be to arrive at Rocky Point (Eastern Cove just outside American River) in time to celebrate the New Year. Gather on the beach during the evening and enjoy the camp-fire and New Year's Eve.

We suggest that you log on with the Coast Guard when proceeding to KI. It is also suggested that you notify the Cruise co-ordinators that you are coming, so that the appropriate sized camp-fire can be organised. Alan and Clive will be listening on Channel 80, and if needs be they will give a general broadcast to Squadron boats of any change of venue caused by inappropriate weather.

Australia Day is on Tuesday 26 January 1999 and we anticipate that many will take the Monday as a holiday and end up with a four-day break. If you are taking the extra day it will be an ideal opportunity to take part in the **Four-Day Gulf St. Vincent Cruise**.

Always allowing for the vagaries of weather, the program is: Saturday-Sunday — Edithburgh and Troubridge Island; Monday — Marina St. Vincent; Tuesday — return to Adelaide. Should the weather be adverse for this schedule it may well be conducted back to front.

It is anticipated that we will have a meal ashore on at least one of the days and, of course, a get together at other times. For those wishing to do so there will be a competition on each leg of the cruise; this may be an Estimated Time of Arrival or distance travelled. Naturally there will be a

'largest snook' competition. Guaranteed to be a great way to spend four days. Look out for the posters with final details.

KI North Coast Cruise — commences Sunday, 31 January from the Squadron and concludes at the end of the week at Kangaroo Island. The cruise is under the expert guidance of Jamie and Anthea Cowell, who have travelled the coast many times. Jamie and Anthea will take you with them to Kangaroo Island and then along the North Coast of Kangaroo Island, visiting all their favourite anchorages. This is an ideal time to be on the North Coast of KI.

This cruise is primarily intended for Members who have not had the opportunity to cruise these waters before or who have only travelled a little way along the north shore. Members who took part in last year's KI cruise had a marvellous time exploring this dramatic coastline.

Enclosed with this *Quarterly* is an indication of interest form for this event. Please complete this and return it to the Office as soon as possible. If you have already filled in the previous form, please don't fill in this form. You will be notified of the meeting of participants prior to the event to discuss the cruise and preparations etc. Don't leave it till it's too late.

Sundowner No 4 and an Information Night are on Saturday 6 February (the weekend before the Port Lincoln Race and Cruise). The Sundowner has a briefing at 1300 (1 pm) on the Quarterdeck and as usual no-one (except maybe the organisers) knows the format until the Briefing. Every Sundowner is different and demanding enough to make it both interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile.

Following the Sundowner (allowing of course time for a little relaxation) is the first **Information Night** for 1999. The subject will be 'Everything You Want to Know About Everything That Costs A Lot'. Basically it will be an interesting presentation on hi-technology advances in equipment, such as Personal Computer-based GPS charting, E-mail and weather-fax facilities, Radar, Forward-Looking Sonar and modern HF radio and its capabilities.