

OBITUARY

It was with surprise that we learnt of the death of Past Commodore, Thomas G Flint. Tom, who was 65 years of age, passed away following a heart attack on Sunday, 13 November 83 at the Flinder's Medical Centre.

He joined the Squadron in 1939 and served extensively in many capacities including that of Commodore in 1980/81. At the time of his death he was a member of the Sailing Committee, a member of the Handicapping Committee, and was a Squadron delegate to the SAYRA.

He was a founding member and Secretary of the SAYRA, and a former President of the AYF. Tom served as a member of the Racing Rules Committee and had recently accepted the position of State Handicapper for the Keel Boat Committee. He had also represented Australia at the IYRU, and was the first person to be granted Life Membership of the SAYRA.

His experience as a racing yachtsman resulted in him being in demand as a member of protest panels. He was a Jury Man at many national and international championships including series conducted in New Zealand and Japan. He was Jury Chairman at the 1981 420 World Championships conducted at Seacliff, and also at the 505 World Championships conducted earlier this year. He had the honour of being the first South Australian to be appointed as an International Judge, and was only the fourth Australian to receive this recognition. Tom travelled to Sardinia last year in this capacity. He was approached by the New York Yacht Club to become involved in the America's Cup Challengers' Series, but was forced to decline because of ill health.

He started in 12' Cadet Dinghies, his first boat named PARAMA. He subsequently owned a semi-open 18' boat called CORELLA designed along similar lines to the 12' dinghies and built by Wilf Haselgrove. Tom once sailed this boat single-handed to Kangaroo Island and back.

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During the Second World War whilst serving in the army he contracted pneumonia. He was the first person in South Australia to be saved using the sulphur Nilamide treatment. He subsequently became a member of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol.

He owned two Tumlarens. The Tumlaren line drawings hanging in the Dining Room near the Servery were donated to the Squadron by Tom. Between the two Tum's he owned an 18 footer designed by Uffa Fox named ZANE. He sailed extensively with Harry Perry Jnr in his Heavyweight Sharpie, HEATHER, and was associated with this boat when it won two Australian Championships. He also spent some time sailing in the 11' Restricted Class.

Tom later introduced the Dragon Class to South Australia. His first Dragon, PAM was one of the boats that competed in the 1956 Olympic Games. In recent times he is remembered for his successful racing in his Duncanson 29, MEDINA.

Tom was a former Commodore and a Life Member of the Somerton Yacht Club. Following the loss of their clubrooms during a storm, the future of the Somerton club was in jeopardy. It is recognised that Tom was largely responsible for the club gaining approval to rebuild in its present location, thus ensuring its survival. He was also a member of the Port Adelaide Sailing Club and the Holdfast Bay Yacht Club.

He collected one of the largest yachting libraries in Australia, including extensive information relating to the history of the America's Cup competition. Tom was recently informed by the publishers of the English magazine, "Yachting World" that he was their longest subscribing reader.

His impressive record of service to yacht racing has guaranteed that he will be remembered for a long time by the racing fraternity. On behalf of all Squadron members, the "SAYS Newsletter" asks that his family accept our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences.