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5 April 2011

General Manager
Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron
Po Box 1066
North Haven SA 5018

Dear Wayne,

Here is the last Admiralty Warrant for a member of the Squadron to fly the undefaced blue ensign.

It is surrendered to the Squadron, as the rules required, by Dr and Mrs Harold Handley with the sale of *Minna*. As a document of historical significance it should be logged on the historical data base, endorsed with the ID number (not on the document itself, of course), and included in the historical collection.

With the establishment of the Australian Register, none of our vessels with an Australian port of registry is entitled to apply for such a warrant, assuming that the process still exists. With the savage cost-cutting in the UK and taking necessary civil service time, it may have been abandoned.

As a corporate entity, the Squadron obviously cannot be placed on a register of shipping, so it is lawful for us to continue to fly our undefaced blue ensign unless the Admiralty were to revoke it, which it has no motive to do. Austin Gibson told me that he had seen the original warrant, and if you can find it, I am sure that there would be members who would like to see it.

With best wishes,

Peter Last

cc Dr HA Handley

*By Command of the Secretary of
State for Defence*

By virtue of the power and authority vested in him under the provisions of section 73 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, and of all other powers and authorities him thereunto enabling, the Secretary of State for Defence hereby warrants and authorises the Blue Ensign of Her Majesty's Fleet to be worn on board the yacht "MINNA" belonging to H. A. HANDLEY of ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YACHT SQUADRON INC. being a member(s) of the ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YACHT SQUADRON INC. ~~Yacht Club.~~

This warrant shall be carried on board the said yacht and shall at all times be revocable at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

This warrant shall have no force or effect when (a) the said yacht ceases to be duly registered as a British Ship in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 1958, and any Acts replacing or amending the said Acts; or (b) the said yacht is being sailed otherwise than by the owner(s) mentioned herein in person; or (c) the said yacht is used for any professional business or commercial purpose; or (d) the owner(s) of the said yacht mentioned herein ceases to be a member(s) of the R. S. A. Y. S. INC. ~~Yacht Club.~~

By Command of the Secretary of State for Defence,

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
LONDON, SW1



22ND SEPTEMBER 1980

Deputy Under-Secretary of State (Navy).

The following is a description of the yacht to which this warrant refers:-

Official Number	355642
Registered Tonnage	17.56
Length	43' 6"
Breadth	10' 9"
Rig and/or Motive Power	SLOOP
Port of Registry	PORT ADELAIDE

Please read notes overleaf

NOTES:-

1. **Return of Warrant.** — When the yacht is sold, there is a change of ownership or the owner ceases to be a member of the club, this warrant must *at once* be sent to the secretary of the club who is responsible for its immediate return to the Ministry of Defence.
2. **Presence of Owner.** — The special ensign authorised by this warrant may not be flown unless the owner is on board, or in effective control of the yacht when she is in harbour or at anchor near the shore, or without the club's burgee being flown at the main masthead, or other suitable position.
3. **Tenders.** — The ensign may be flown by any boat which belongs to the yacht and can conveniently be hoisted on board her.
4. **Separate Warrant for each Club.** — If the owner belongs to more than one club to which warrants to use a special ensign are granted, he must apply for a separate warrant from each club.
5. **Use of Yacht.** — A yacht which is ever used for any professional, business or commercial purpose is ineligible for a warrant. It is emphasised that the special ensign is authorised to be flown only in a yacht used exclusively for the private and personal purposes of the yachtsman to whom the warrant is issued.
6. **Houseboats, etc.** — A yacht which is never used for cruising is ineligible for a warrant.
7. **Charter or Loan.** — If the yacht for which this warrant has been issued is chartered or loaned to a person who is a member of a yacht club approved for the purpose of the issue of warrants to its members, application may be made for a temporary warrant for the period of the charter or loan. The temporary warrant invalidates this warrant which should be returned through the secretary of the club to the Ministry of Defence for cancellation.
8. **Alterations.** — No alteration may be made in the warrant without the authority of the Secretary of State for Defence. If the name of the yacht is changed or any alterations are made in her which affect the register, the warrant must be returned through the secretary of the club to the Ministry of Defence for correction or re-issue.
9. **Foreign Cruises.** — Owners of yachts cruising in foreign waters should take care to avoid any action which might result in complications with a Foreign Power. To this end it is requested that owners intending to visit foreign waters affected by war or serious disturbances will give particulars of their proposed voyages to the secretary of the club.