

Sailing Committee Report

Michael Hambidge

New system for management of races

The Sailing Committee has adopted a new, computerised race management system which will, before long, allow for complete RSAYS race scoring, recording and data storage, and save a considerable amount of volunteer effort.

The system software, the Australian authored 'TopYacht' program, has been operating on board *Miss Robyn* since soon after Christmas for race scoring only, but will take over the 'hard work' part of the handicapping function as from the start of the coming Winter Pointscore series.

Long-time Squadron handicapper William Strangways, with his committee (Dave Morphett, Tony Baldwin and Ray Reynolds) will still set initial handicaps pre-season, and will set the parameters, after which the program will do the race-to-race calculations automatically. New handicaps will be available with race results.

The 'TopYacht Keelboat' program is in current use in five clubs, including Derwent Sailing Squadron, Hobart, and Sandringham (Melbourne).

Weather blues . . .

Constant calms dogged the last Winter series racing, but things certainly changed for this season's Summer inshore pointscore competition. We've had the program thrown into confusion by both calm and storm!

Early low-wind race abandonments expanded the 'drop' allowance from two to four for Div. I, and to three for the other divisions. The storm-abandoned event on February 6 was the next blow, and this saw winds to 50 knots and smaller vessels in a degree of trouble over the whole race area.



Natani, winner of the overall twilight series (Mike Hambidge).

Good things from the pointscore have been the strengthening of Divisions I and II in particular, and the impressive performance of a couple of skippers recently moved up from Div. III.

Twilights stupendous!

Twilight racing has progressed from 'great' last time all the way to 'stupendous' this Summer. Who would have believed we'd have more than 30 boats out on the water on a Wednesday evening as a not-unusual occurrence! The really good thing is the number of 'cruising types' who have given twilight racing a go, and who have succumbed to the heady combination of competition and post-race socialising.

All concerned are grateful to Vicsail, Aussail Pittwater, Ansett Australia, Orlando Wines and

Jamesons Irish Whiskey for generous sponsorship. Our congratulations go to the overall winner Arthur Vandenbroek, with *Natani*, and to Alan Stevenson (*Sledgehammer*), second and Ian Power (*Seafirey*), third.

Offshore

The offshore season (more races this season) has progressed well again, and also with more starters than last season. Placings have been well distributed, but the Div I crews are going to have to work hard to fend off strong challenges from a couple of the Div II contenders for the trophies.

The Sydney Hobart race was a disappointment for the skippers and crews of *Renegade* and *Speakeasy* and they have our sympathy for their experience at that time, and for their loss of sailing for weeks afterwards. Congratulations to

Keith Flint and team for finishing the big race well (and for getting so much TV coverage).

We were happy to provide a 'welcome home' for our 'big race' crews and several from the CYCSA very soon after the event, and the 'house full to overflowing' attendance reflected wide interest and support.

The annual Quins Simrad Port Lincoln race was run the week after this report was written, so I can only offer congratulations to those who did well, in confidence that our boats were among the winners. We had plenty of entrants in both the racing and cruising divisions.

Generally, the Squadron's competition activities reflect the effect of growing membership and expanding fleet.

It's a very nice feeling!

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TWILIGHT SAILING

Series 1 & Series 2

SPONSORSHIP

THANK YOU

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ANSETT AUSTRALIA

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Whiskey

JACOB'S CREEK
AUSTRALIA'S TOP DROP

Vicsail SA in conjunction with Ausail Pittwater, Ansett Australia, Jacob's Creek & Jamesons have generously provided sponsorship for both series of twilight races.

Vicsail sponsored weekly prizes while Ausail Pittwater presented a weekend charter of a Catalina Yacht on the Pittwater. To get the combined series winner to & from Sydney, ANSETT AUSTRALIA* are flying two adults ex Adelaide.

Jamesons have sponsored weekly and overall prizes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OVERALL WINNER
"NATANI" Arthur Vandenbroek