

OBITUARY

The Royal SA Yacht Squadron lost one of its most esteemed members on the 12th May 84 with the death of Doug Verco, at the age of 75.

Wilfred Douglas Verco was a Life Member of the Squadron, and in fact spent a very considerable part of his life at the Squadron, and the waters adjacent.

Doug first sailed in 1922 on his father's auxiliary yacht VENTURA. In those days VENTURA was kept at Goolwa. In 1928 she was brought to the RSAYS, and it was in that year Doug began his long association with the Squadron.

In 1929 Searle's Boat Yard built for Doug's father, the 56'6" bermudan ketch NAUTILUS. It was in this lovely yacht that Doug learned the joys of cruising. He also learnt prudence and used to say "Before bed every night, 2 reefs and a storm jib on".

In 1934 Doug bought WYLO II and renamed her NAUTILUS II. In 1944 he bought the 36' sloop REDHEAD and renamed her NAUTILUS III.

From Norman Ford in 1954 Doug purchased ANYNDAH but this time left the name unaltered. The next NAUTILUS, number IV, was a Dragon. For over 12 years Doug campaigned against such stalwarts as Laurie Deacon, Harry Perry Snr and Tom Flint, and contributed to the growing stature of the Dragon class. Doug was made a Life Member of the Dragon Association.

NAUTILUS V, Doug's last boat, was a Duncanson 29. With his loyal Dragon crew moving with him to NAUTILUS V, Doug made his mark in the divisions he sailed.

In February of 1975 Doug had the first of three major operations for cancer. That month he was pronounced clinically dead twice. It is a measure of the man

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he was that he wouldn't be beaten. Doug fought back and sailed competitively for another 8 years. His love of family and yachting were his reason for living, and fighting an illness that would have finished most other men long before. Ask any of those lucky enough to have sailed with Doug and you will be told that he sailed in all weather, never gave in, and never gave any quarter - and yet was a thorough gentleman to sail with.

On Thursday, 24th May a small group sailed out to the Southern Silt Buoy and left it to port, heading for the Fairway Beacon. On those familiar waters Doug's ashes were scattered slowly. A toast was drunk to this old and well loved member. It was a simple moving ceremony.

The Commodore, Flag Officers, Committeemen and members extend their condolences to Gwentyth, Richard and family.

