

ETCHELL NEWS

Early January 90, will see the Squadron host the Etchell Nationals. This event, sponsored by Gerard Industries under the "Clipsal" banner, will give yacht racing enthusiasts and spectators, some of the best yacht racing competition in the world. With 35 to 40 Etchells expected to front the starting line (looks like a few recalls here!) those members who are able to attend will see quite a spectacle, with representation from all States. Both the current Australian champ, Michael Manford from Perth, and the 1988 World Champ, John Savage from Melbourne, will be here.

The local fleet was well represented in the Winter Racing Series to build up form for the Nationals, and also a coaching program is in place to lift the standard of our racing fleet. With big fleets in the eastern states, the level of competition is very high, and our fleet is committed to lifting our standard and gaining good results, especially on home waters.

Some people have said to me that they often wonder what it is like to sail an Etchell. Should any reader wish to satisfy such a yearning, just contact me and we can arrange a sail on a fun day.

Regards.

DAVID HENSHALL



NERIDA

This issue of "Squadron Quarterly" features on it's front cover, NERIDA, a 45' gaff rigged cutter built in 1932 for the late Mr T M Hardy by R T Searles and Son.

She was designed by the Scot, Alfred Milne to specifications which were given a great deal of consideration by her owner. He wanted a comfortable yacht, pretty to the eye and suited to local waters where too much draught was considered to be a problem. She was also to be suitable for ocean cruises and occasional handicap racing. Incidentally, in 1925 Mr Hardy was issued with the Commonwealth of Australia Certificate No 1 for his competence as Master of a British Yacht.

Following Mr Hardy's death in 1938 as a result of a plane crash, the vessel was sold to Mr Walter Bagenal who was then Chairman of the Emu Wine Co. She was subsequently purchased by Mr Horry Roaney who later sold her to Mr Colin Haselgrove. He rerigged her as a bermudian yawl in 1947 and then went on to win the 1950 Sydney to Hobart Race. She later went to Melbourne to Mr Max Glover who maintained her in excellent condition. She was to change ownership about 7 times.

In 1971, Thomas Hardy and Sons purchased NERIDA, returning her to family ownership after a period of over 30 years. Much, if not all of the correspondence between Alfred Milne and Mr Hardy remains intact, together with many of the plans. This information proved invaluable when the company engaged the GRETTEL America's Cup Design Team to restore her to her original gaff cutter rig and general layout. The task was completed early in 1972 at a cost of \$30000, enabling her to sail to Melbourne to perform duties as a spectator craft at the Olympic Selection Trials.

NERIDA, now a "vintage yacht" is maintained by the company and used for promotional purposes on Sydney Harbour.

DAVE HURFORD