

At a recent meeting, a question was asked regarding the appointment of a new Treasurer, and an inference made that this appointment was not an election in the normal way. To clarify the situation, the present Treasurer, David Harris, wished not to hold office in the 2001/2002 year. As is always the case in our democratic club, the Squadron called on any Voting Members who were willing, ready and able to take on the position to nominate by March of this year. We were underwhelmed by the absence of nominations. The Management Committee had no alternative but to approach those Members we thought had the necessary credentials for this important job. Mr Andrew Powell consented to fill the vacancy. However, due to his absence on an extended cruise, he indicated he could not take up the position until November of this year. In this situation, David Harris renominated and was re-elected at the AGM. He agreed to stay on until November 2001, when he will resign. Failing any other nominations for the position, Mr Powell will be temporarily appointed under Rule 6.4, and will stand for election at the next Annual General Meeting.

The new racing Season gets underway on 6 October, so plan accordingly to have your vessels in top racing

condition, as 2001–2002 will prove to be a busy but rewarding racing season for all who make the effort. Your Sailing Committee has put together a top sailing program, modified by your inputs from the questionnaires you answered prior to the Skippers and Crews meeting in May. On top of this, we have the Australian Offshore Racing Regatta in late February, and the Special Easter Matthew Flinders Bicentennial Regatta at the Squadron in April.

Lastly, may I thank the bands of volunteers who continue to provide their services to the benefit of all. Whether it be helping run Junior programs, erecting new sheds for Junior training, racing equipment, gardening & maintenance, crewing our start boat etc. their input is priceless. Thank you all!

Stop Press: The Commodore's Ball held on 18 August aboard the *Port Princess* was a huge success. Our sponsors, Jacobs Creek, made available to the event their new Piccolo bottles of champagne for welcoming pre-dinner drinks. These were consumed through a straw! That got rid of any inhibitions and the night got away to a fine start. My thanks to the House and Social Committee for such a good event. SQ

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Sailing Committee Report

Colin Douby

Your new Sailing Committee has been working hard to finalise next season's sailing program, as well as revising the sailing instructions to incorporate changes brought about by the AYF Racing Rules 2001–2004. Safety compliance is a hot topic, with racing organisations emphasising the responsibility of skippers and crews to ensure their boat meets the safety standards required. Skippers and crews are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with these requirements.

Some changes have been made to the new program to reflect your responses to the questionnaire circulated last season. Divisions 1 & 2 Inshore point-score has been reduced to ten races with two discards. Division 3 Inshore point-score will sail nine races with one discard and Etchells have twelve races with two discards. The offshore series will consist of nine races with one discard.

Winter sailing has again been beset with a frustrating series of light and variable winds, challenging both skippers and race organisers. However, with three races completed, Squadron boats are fairing well in the aggregate scores. *Legs Eleven* leads first division, *Allouette* leads third division with *Tuffee Apple* equal first in second division.

The Plympton cup was also a drifter, and only eight boats managed to complete the shortened course within the time limit. Your Committee is proposing to change the format of the race next year to ensure that all competitors finish — provided there is at least some wind! Given the small number of finishers the Presentation Night was reasonably well attended. While the CYC dominated the sailing results, you will be pleased to know the Squadron managed to win the darts competition.

The increasing popularity of twilight races has demanded changes to the starting procedures to avoid dangerous congestion on the start line. A number of options were considered, and the Committee has decided to introduce a two-start system. The start line will be in the usual position, with the fleet divided into two divisions based on handicap. The slower boats will start first, with the rest starting five minutes later. Handicaps will be adjusted to allow for this change and to calculate an overall result for each race. There will be 8 pre-

Christmas races (1 discard) and 10 post Christmas races (1 discard).

The Kingscote Cup is on again this year over the Labour Day weekend, and starts on Friday evening, 28 September. This race is not part of our offshore series, but provides an excellent warm up event for the racing season. All who participated last year enjoyed the event, particularly those who won the cash!

Details and nomination forms can be obtained from the Squadron Office.

The Squadron and the CYC are co-hosts to the Australian Offshore Championships on 22–28 February 2002. There will be three divisions: IRC, IMS and PHS. Yachts may sail in any one or all divisions. This is a showcase event, and we are keen to field as many boats as possible. The main focus will be on the IRC division, which is a handicap system that allows older yachts to compete realistically with the latest designs. The IRC measurement and certification system is simple and cheap, and heavier boats with full cruising kit are treated quite favourably. Measurement and weighing can be arranged — contact your Sailing Committee for details. Weighing is not essential, but boats with a weighing certificate will probably obtain a better rating. All racing skippers are urged to consider obtaining an IRC certificate and to participate in this event. Everything you want to know about IRC can be found on the Royal Ocean Racing Club web site at <http://rorcraing.com/>.

Racing provides active participation in your chosen sport and greatly supports the Squadron's identity. Now is the time to start planning for the new season and we hope to see you all out on the water. SQ



In 1932 gentlemen wore their old business suits to go cruising. Taken at Kangaroo Island on a cruise in Norallie were George Eimer, Tom and Eileen Hardy and Dorothy ('Dumps') Somerville (Wigan album).