

# THE MAIN SHEET

The Hampton Sailing Club Newsletter

[www.hsc.yachting.org.au](http://www.hsc.yachting.org.au)



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OCTOBER 2009

## Commodore's Corner

A warm welcome to the 2009-10 sailing season. I hope everyone is able to join in at least some of the Club's sailing, training and social activities during the months ahead.

The winter has been somewhat frustrating from the point of view of organised sailing, with poor weather preventing three of our four scheduled races from going ahead. However, I know that some members were able to make use of fine winter days to get out on the Bay – and winter in Melbourne can offer some beautiful sailing conditions when northerlies take over and flatten out those more familiar southerly swells. Where I come from (in Scotland), we had to stop sailing each year when the local lake froze over, so at least in Melbourne we always have the option of a sail.

During the winter, I and other Committee members have represented the Club at Yachting Victoria's annual Conference, Annual General Meeting and other forums, all of which provided food for thought about current issues affecting sailing and boating in Victoria (particularly in areas such as tenancy / leasing arrangements for clubs on Crown land; opportunities linked with Yachting Victoria's new "Pathways to Performance" training structure; and potential legislative changes arising from review of the *Marine Act 1988*). An update on the *Marine Act* review is included in this newsletter.

Our sailing season was launched in fine form on Sunday, 4 October. The Rev David Head of Holy Trinity, Hampton again made time available to conduct a Blessing of the Fleet, attended by a record number of members. This was followed by a sail-past and the annual Commodore's Cup race, with a great turn-out of 18 starters. The day was then rounded off with a fantastic barbecue.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Commodore's Cup, Victor Zorin (470 skipper) and Irina Angelova (crew). It was an exciting race, and we had no idea of the winner until the handicap results had been worked out. Also, many thanks to Rita Bagossy for arranging the Blessing of the Fleet, to Frank Leipper who officiated during the race, Blaise Vinot who mastered the handicap calculations, Leanne Rothacker who organised the barbecue, and to all members who participated on the day.

We have a 6-month program of Club races and training activities planned out for the current season, as summarized in the August *Main Sheet*, and our Social Secretary (Fiona Stephens) is busy organising events that will take us through to the Christmas period. Hopefully, there will be something in the program to suit everyone – if not, please let us know what additional activities you would like the Club to offer.

Please take a look at the article on **Go Sailing Day** (Sunday, 8 November) in this newsletter – we urgently need volunteers to help out, and to welcome visitors who may then wish to become members.

Information about recent changes to the Work Day Credit Scheme has been included on page 7 of this issue of *Main Sheet*. Please take the time to read this item.

Finally, I ask anyone who is reading this newsletter and intends to continue their membership, but has not yet paid their annual fees, to please do so immediately. For 2008-09 members who are not intending to renew, please feel welcome to visit from time to time and see how the Club is progressing.

**Stewart Simmons**  
**Commodore**



### Racing Reports

#### 4 October – Commodore's Cup

Following the Blessing of the Fleet ceremony the first race of the season was conducted in perfect sailing conditions. Further details of the day's events are written up in the Commodore's Corner.

#### 11 October – 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Aggregate

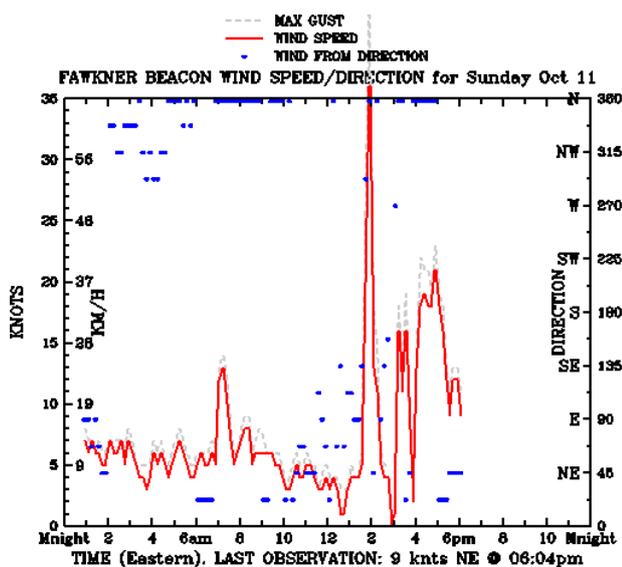
On Saturday, 10 October there was a big turn out for Kevin's training session. We learnt a lot and it was great to see so many of our club members eager to progress. Thank you, Kevin.

For those of you who did not experience the unusual weather 'event' on Sunday, 11 October you may get some idea of the conditions we faced in this race from the following article by Mark Dennis (Impulse 555):

A fleet of about 15 boats sailed out for the 2:00 pm start in a light S - SW of about 3 - 5 knots. The clouds were moving from the

NW and there was an ominous looking storm cloud just to the north west of us and slowly moving our way from the other side of the bay. We could see it dropping a bit of rain, but the wind was so light that the main concern was lightning if anything. We were all just starting to congregate towards the start boat when a first blast hit. Within about 60 seconds it went from a light breeze to I reckon over 30 knots and half the fleet went over. Some managed to ride the first blast out over a period of a couple of minutes and then it abated slightly before an even stronger blast hit and that took out most of the rest of the fleet. A few hardy/crazy souls managed to stay upright (me included) and I've never seen my mast bend so much. After about a minute or so the wind abated a bit and I saw a guy in a laser having fun blasting around on the beat as the wind had dropped to a manageable 25 knots or so. I guess a lot of us assumed the race would start soon as the wind had died back a bit because most of us stayed out and I started mucking around too and hooning up and down thinking it was over and then after about 5 minutes what I think was the strongest blast hit and I was caught on a starboard beat which turned into a downwind skate across the tops of the waves as the wind swung more northwest and increased. It was like riding a wild bronco and I had let go of the main sheet and was sitting on the tanks on the back corner of the cockpit hanging on with one hand and one foot still hooked into the toe strap and still holding the tiller trying to get the boat to turn more into the wind. I glanced at my wrist GPS which said 11+ knots and I was still accelerating and being the thrill seeker that I am I actually was having fun. I found myself whooping and then the bow dived and a heap of water sloshed into the boat. The wind really hit at that point and I found myself propped on the gunwale near the back corner of the cockpit with the boom and sail half in the water and the wind howling. I managed to keep the Impulse from going over only by shouting at the boat and after about 30 seconds of what must have been 40+ knots I popped back upright. As this gust abated a bit more I got things moving to get the self-bailer to start doing its job and then watched as the rescue boat and start boat shot around helping

everyone who needed it. Sandringham also had their little tackers out at the same time in Minnows and Optimists and it must have been terrifying to them, but they managed to get them back upright and sailing or under tow and mostly in the harbour before the second blast hit. The Sandy ducks came to help us out which was good. Needless to say the race was called off. No one was hurt and only one boat had a completely torn sail in the back quarter (around the foot or clew?). Some people went over 3 times. Most headed back in as the wind turned back to a breeze and I hung around in the harbour for a bit hoping to have some fun on the beat while the rescue boats picked up the last boat to tow in and then the wind completely stopped for about 10 minutes and I drifted! It was unbelievable that the wind could go from a few knots to 40 knots then back to zero in the space of about 30 minutes. When the wind finally started puffing again I ghosted back into port and there were a couple of other less intense blasts as we packed up. A freaky day, but I actually had some fun and learnt that the boat and I can survive 35+ knots so that was good. The only two boats to stay "upright" were two of the Impulses. Here is the wind graph of that day to prove what we experienced.



I think we experienced a wind shear microburst and it is what can bring down passenger jets if they are landing when one of these blasts hits.

### 18 October – 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Aggregate

After the previous week's storm and a few repairs the fleet was eager to sail again. Alas the wind barely reached 5 knots and for the 17 starters it was a war of attrition.

As usual Kevin managed to outsmart the field, finding wind where others were stuck. The very light conditions did not suit everyone. Only 10 boats crossed the finish line after sailing for over 2 hours around a shortened course.

### Junior / Novice Program

The Junior / Novice program for the 2009-2010 sailing season kicked off on Sunday morning, 18 October. 7 boats launched for the beginning session in a light breeze. Owing to the Sail Sandy regatta running at the same time it was decided not to lay a course for our crews. Participants instead received on-the-water training and coaching from Kevin Kay on board the Hampton Duck.

The next session is scheduled for the morning of Sunday, 15 November. Briefing is at 10:00 am, with racing to commence soon after at approx 10:30 am. If you are going to participate, be there early to have your boat rigged in time.

Depending on the weather, several short races may be run back to back, with the session to finish, with the last competitor back ashore, by 12:00 midday.

For further information contact:

Kevin Kay:- 0417680811

Monica Jones:- 0417134007

### Go Sailing Day – Sunday, 8 November

On Sunday, 8 November our Club will be joining many other sailing clubs across Victoria in opening its doors to visitors (and potential new members) as part of “Go Sailing Day 2009”.

This exciting event is co-ordinated each year by Yachting Victoria. However, on this occasion Leader Community Newspapers has also made a strong commitment towards

promoting the event, and this will hopefully result in more people turning out to see what their local sailing clubs have to offer.

Our Club has recently acquired a large banner (with Club name and logo) which will be displayed on the balcony throughout Go Sailing Day, and later during Sail Melbourne. We will also ensure that stocks of Club pamphlets and membership forms are available for visitors.

Yachting Victoria will supply participating clubs with promotional materials such as posters, stickers, banners and information packs. However – the rest is up to us! Our Club has races scheduled for the afternoon of 8 November, so it's important that we take a practical approach to Go Sailing Day, aiming to provide visitors with a warm welcome that won't overstretch our limited resources. At this stage, suggested activities include:

- use of two or three suitable boats (with relatively experienced skippers) to offer sailing opportunities in the harbour area, operating from the beach east of Hampton Pier;
- good examples of two or three classes of boats rigged for inspection in the Club yard;
- possible use of *Kingfisher* to offer excursions around the harbour;
- tea, coffee (free) and soft drinks (at reasonable cost) on offer in the clubrooms;
- members available to welcome visitors and provide information about the Club.

Volunteers are needed urgently to assist with the above activities for all or part of the day (boating activities will run from 10:30am – 3:30pm, but visitors may arrive outside of those times). Well before the event, we also need to confirm which boats are to be used for sailing / display activities, who will skipper off-the-beach boats, and who will crew *Kingfisher*.

Successful involvement in Go Sailing Day will contribute to awareness of our Club within the Bayside area, and can only add to our reputation as a family-friendly place to get involved in sailing activities.

Please consider giving up some time to help make Go Sailing Day a success. Call me on 9598 6954 to discuss your availability and preferred activities, or email me on [simmons@westnet.com.au](mailto:simmons@westnet.com.au).

Members should note that there may be restrictions on parking within the Club grounds during this event, to ensure easy and safe pedestrian access for visitors.

**Stewart Simmons  
Commodore**

### Upcoming Social Events

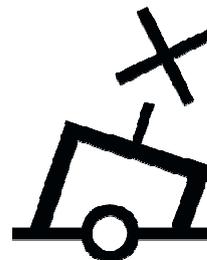
#### Sunday, 8 November

We are planning to run a BBQ after the race on Sunday, 8 November (that's the Go Sailing day). So bring your appetite & enjoy.

#### Saturday, 28 November

Our next date will be Saturday, 28 November for a Holiday Celebration Dinner at HSC. Put this date aside & await further details of the event. It will be a family affair for those who wish to involve the kids.

**Fiona & Leanne**



**Review of the Marine Act 1988**

As noted in the August issue of this newsletter, the Department of Transport is reviewing the *Marine Act 1988* with the aim of improving the safety of marine activities, including recreational boating. The period for comments and submissions closed on 21 September.

Hampton Sailing Club has provided a submission in response to the review, the main points of which are:

- (a) support for actions that will address 'hoon' behavior on the water, and improve boating safety overall;
- (b) support for maintaining current Recreational Boat Operator (Powerboat) Licence requirements for operators of powered vessels, but with the additional requirement that persons wishing to operate higher-powered vessels (for example, with engines >10hp) should be required to pass a practical boat-handling test and hold an endorsed licence;
- (c) lack of support for introducing a new licence requirement for operators of wind-powered vessels (including off-the beach sailing dinghies), in the absence of evidence that this would make any substantive contribution towards boating safety;
- (d) in relation to (c), lack of support for the option of exempting operators of wind-powered vessels from the new license requirement if they could prove membership of a sailing club (as this would result in additional administrative and risk-management burdens for clubs);
- (e) the need to promote recommended standards for equipping and maintaining sailing vessels (including off-the-beach dinghies), backed up by access to inspection services that could be delivered through clubs; and

- (f) the need to improve access to a range of training programs focusing on marine safety and related skills, which again could be delivered through sailing clubs and other relevant bodies.

These comments are generally consistent with the much broader and more detailed submission made by Yachting Victoria, as the peak body for boating and sailing clubs in Victoria.

**Stewart Simmons**

**Boat Storage 2009/2010**

HSC members who are renewing their membership for the 2009/ 2010 season should have by now paid their membership and boat storage fees.

Labels for boats have been printed and I will shortly begin allocating storage places. Preference for the lower level places and the yard will be given to those boats which are regularly used. It is important therefore, that members when using their boats complete the race entry schedule or the record book, which is kept on the ground floor.

Currently there is considerable demand for space in the yard and those members who have not paid their fees may find their 2008/ 2009 space reallocated.

Late payment of fees may result in a boat having to be stored in the racks if space can be found, or having to be taken away.

**Neil Watson**  
**Vice Commodore**



**New Impulse Named**

Members may recall from a previous edition of *Main Sheet* that I was proposing to run a competition to find a name for the Impulse that I have been building down at the club. The prize was to be a cheap bottle of wine.

I can report that after nine months the dinghy is now complete, except for another coat of paint and some fine-tuning. It had its first time in the water on Sunday, 10 October and turned over in a strong wind gust near the start line. Like many others that day I quickly sought safety back on shore.

While only two nominations were received one, I thought stood out and I have named the Impulse Red Peril after its red hull.

My thanks to the competition winner Stewart Simmons.

**Neil Watson**

**Working Bee at the Clubhouse**

The working bee on 20 September resulted in big clean out of rubbish and unwanted equipment from the clubhouse and storage racks. Thanks to all those members who participated.

Frank Leipper reports that work on the first floor extension to the front of the clubhouse should commence soon.

**Newest member of Hampton Sailing Club**

Ian Taylor and partner Sue report the safe arrival of their newest crewmember: -  
William Chong Li Taylor

- Born Friday 7.8.09 3.24pm at Sandringham Hospital
- Weight 3.600kg (7lbs 11oz)
- Length - 52cm (25.20 inch)

Mum, dad and the lad are doing really well, and wish to thank all for support and cheers.

William will need to do a little growing before he can fill out the trapeze harness of Ian's 505, "Tia M".

**From the HSC webmaster...**

I would like to know how you use the website and what you would like to see on it. Comments, ideas, suggestions will help us to make it your preferred point of call for club information. Talk to me at the club or drop me an email: [bvinot@bigpond.com.au](mailto:bvinot@bigpond.com.au)

**Blaise Vinot**

**Newsletter Items**

We are keen to receive future articles for inclusion in the Main Sheet newsletter. Of particular interest sailing activities and events attended by Club members. Send contributions/items to my work email address:  
[russell.brown@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:russell.brown@dhs.vic.gov.au)

Newsletters are published every 2 months and will be distributed about the middle/end of the month.

**Russell Brown**  
Newsletter Editor

**Update to Work Day Credit Scheme**

Hampton Sailing Club relies almost entirely on the voluntary efforts of its members to maintain Club facilities (for example, at working bees) and run activities such as the sailing program (for example, through performance of race management duties).

To encourage and reward this voluntary involvement, the Club operates a Work Day (WD) Credit scheme, which (as far as we can establish) is unique among regional sailing clubs. Mention of Hampton's WD Credit arrangements in any broader sailing forum tends result in looks of bemused amazement, but it does seem to have served the Club well for a number of years.

The details of the scheme are set out in section 6 of the Club's By-laws, which specifies activities for which Club members can earn WD Credits. These include:

- Attendance at working bees:- 0.5 WD Credit for each am or pm attendance
- Club Duty Officer:- 0.5 WD Credit per duty
- Race Controller:- 1.0 WD Credit per duty
- Rescue Boat Skipper:- 0.5 WD Credit per duty
- Boat crew:- 0.25 WD Credit per duty

The Club committee can also agree to allocate WD Credits in return for special duties performed on behalf of the Club.

WD Credits have a financial value, determined by the Club committee each year when reviewing membership subscriptions and fees. Currently, 1 WD Credit is worth about \$26.

Members who accumulate WD Credits by performing services during any Club year have the value of those credits deducted from their membership fee for the following year. However, it should be noted that the scheme includes provisions which limit its impact on Club finances – for example: WD Credits cannot be deducted from boat storage fees; cannot be carried over from one Club year to the next; and their value is never paid out in cash.

From time to time, the WD Credit scheme is 'fine tuned' to make sure that it continues to serve the best interests of the Club and its members. Changes to the scheme are made by the Club committee through amendments to the By-laws

(which can be accessed under 'Members' / 'Members Information' on the Club's website).

At its meeting of 14 September 2009, the committee made a number of changes to the WD Credit scheme. These included:

- (a) limiting the entitlements that a member can be accrue in any Club year for performance of Club Duty (to a total of 2 WD Credits, equivalent to four days' attendance);
- (b) making it clear that entitlements for Race Control and boat duties are per day of attendance in connection with events scheduled in the Club's racing calendar;
- (c) making it clear that any WD Credits for special activities must be approved in advance by the Club committee (with approval to be recorded in the minutes of the relevant meeting);
- (d) making it clear that approval to accrue WD Credits for a special activity does not extend beyond the Club year in which it is granted, but may be renewed following review by the incoming committee;
- (e) requiring the Club Secretary to maintain an inventory of any special project approvals granted under the WD Credit scheme, to be available for presentation at the next Annual General Meeting if any member so requests; and
- (f) requiring the Membership Secretary to keep an overall annual record of WD Credits accrued by each Club member, and to present a summary report on the operation of the scheme to members attending each AGM. The WD Credit scheme has a number of benefits for the Club, but (as this brief summary indicates) it is fairly complex and time consuming to administer. Thanks are due to our Membership Secretary (Richard Skews) for having the patience to maintain the records, and link these with annual subscription renewals.

During the remainder of this Club year, a group of Committee members (Neil Watson, Peter Dean, Martin Playne and Richard Skews) has undertaken to look in more detail at the merits of the WD Credit scheme, and assess whether it should be maintained in the longer term.

**Stewart Simmons**  
**Commodore**

**Hampton Sailing Club 2009-10 Season - Junior / Novice Racing Calendar****Briefing – 10:00am****Start - 10:30am****Finish by - 12:00noon**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lady Isa Skipper*</b>	<b>Rescue Boat Skipper*</b>
18-Oct-2009	Chris Jones	Fiona Stephens
15-Nov-2009	Chris Jones	Kevin Kay
29-Nov-2009	Paul Stephenson	Blaise Vinot
10-Jan-2010	Michael Cook	Stewart Simmons
17-Jan-2010	John Maddick	Blaise Vinot
07-Feb-2010	Frank Leipper	Fiona Stephens
21-Feb-2010	Richard Skews	Monica Jones
14-Mar-2010	Paul Stephenson	William Brown
28-Mar-2010	Paul Stephenson	Ralph Brown
18-Apr-2010	Stewart Simmons	Blaise Vinot

\*Lady Isa and Rescue Boat crews will be arranged in the week prior to each race.

### Hampton Sailing Club 2009-10 Season – Aggregate / Championship Racing Calendar

Briefing: – 1:00pm

Start: – 2:00pm

Date	Race/s	Race Officer (on Lady Isa)	Lady Isa Skipper	Rescue Boat Skipper	Rescue Boat Crew
04-Oct-09	Commodore's Cup	Frank Leipper	Ralph Brown	David Seymour	Michael Dwyer
11-Oct-09	Club Championship followed by Spring Aggregate 1	Frank Leipper	Ralph Brown	David Seymour	Michael Dwyer
18-Oct-09	Spring Aggregate**	Frank Leipper	Nial Finegan	Ralph Brown	Allan Lees
25-Oct-09	Spring Aggregate followed by Club Championship	Frank Leipper	Nial Finigan	Lex Cusin	Robin McKeown
01-Nov-09	Melbourne Cup Weekend – No Racing				
08-Nov-09	Club Championship followed by Spring Aggregate	Richard Skews	Lex Cusin	Kevin Kay	John Paxinos
15-Nov-09	Spring Aggregate**	Paul Stephenson	Lex Cusin	Monica Jones	Alan Tempest
22-Nov-09	Spring Aggregate**	Richard Skews	Andrew Cook	Fiona Stephens	David Seymour
29-Nov-09	Spring Aggregate**	Paul Stephenson	William Brown	Ralph Brown	David Seymour
06-Dec-09	Club Championship followed by Spring Aggregate	Steve Moller	Jorn Rose	David Seymour	Peter Gray
13-Dec-09	Sail Melbourne - No Racing				
20-Dec-09	Summer Aggregate 1	Michael Cook	Andrew Cook	Blaise Vinot	Kevin Kay
27-Dec-09	Christmas Break				
03-Jan-10	Christmas Break				
10-Jan-10	Summer Aggregate 2**	Michael Cook	Nial Finigan	Monica Jones	Victor Zorin
17-Jan-10	Summer Aggregate 3**	John Maddick	Nial Finigan	David Thompson	Peter Dean

24-Jan-10	Australia Day Weekend – No Racing				
31-Jan-10	Club Championship followed by Autumn Aggregate	Frank Leipper	Ken Hope	Paul Johnson	Jeff Ward
07-Feb-10	Autumn Aggregate**	Frank Leipper	Ian Taylor	Russell Brown	Chris Dayman
14-Feb-10	Autumn Aggregate followed by Club Championship	Richard Skews	Ian Taylor	Julie Brennan-Smith	Chris Dayman
21-Feb-10	Autumn Aggregate**	Richard Skews	Elise Brennan-Smith	Martin Playne	David Seymour
28-Feb-10	Club Championship followed by Autumn Aggregate	Richard Skews	Elise Brennan-Smith	Neil Watson	David Seymour
07-Mar-10	Labour Day Weekend – No Racing				
14-Mar-10	Autumn Aggregate**	Paul Stephenson	Kevin Kay	Neil Cooke	Chris Jones
21-Mar-10	Autumn Aggregate followed by Club Championship	Paul Stephenson	Nial Finigan	David Jones	Chris Dayman
28-Mar-10	Autumn Aggregate**	Paul Stephenson	Nial Finigan	John Allison	Chris Dayman
04-Apr-10	Easter Sunday - No Racing				
11-Apr-10	Club Championship followed by Autumn Aggregate	Frank Leipper	Paul Stephenson	Fiona Stephens	Ralph Brown
18-Apr-10	Autumn Aggregate**	Frank Leipper	Paul Stephenson	Lex Cusin	Ralph Brown
25-Apr-10	End of Season Sail	Frank Leipper	Elise Brennan-Smith	Lex Cusin	Ralph Brown

\*\* Junior / Novice Race scheduled for morning of same day – refer to separate calendar.