

THE MAIN SHEET

The Hampton Sailing Club Newsletter

www.hsc.yachting.org.au



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FEBRUARY 2011

Commodore's Corner

Welcome to the start of 2011. I hope that all Club members enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer break, and that you are ready to make the most of our local Bay and beaches during the coming months. Organized Club racing will continue until the beginning of May, but it's also great to see that our Club is in regular use by members enjoying casual sailing, kayaking and windsurfing during the evenings and weekends. The murky floodwaters of mid-January are now clearing away, and I'm told that a seal and dolphins have recently been seen near the Sandringham breakwater, so there's good reason to get out on the water and enjoy the surroundings.

Before the Christmas break, our Club was again well represented in the race management team for Sail Melbourne 2010 (the Australian leg of the ISAF Sailing World Cup), based at Sandringham Yacht Club. This major regatta seems to get bigger every year, with some 23 countries represented on this occasion. As usual, top sailors and national teams travelled from around the world to compete, but there was still plenty of opportunity for local sailors to get involved and test their skills.

Rita and Charles Bagossy again made a huge contribution during the preparations for the regatta, and throughout the event itself. Neil Watson, Blaise Vinot and his daughters, William Brown and I were all kept busy throughout the regatta week, and as usual learned a lot from working with experienced national and international race officers. Anyone interested in finding out more about Sail Melbourne can access the event website and videos at www.sailmelbourne.com.au.

Immediately after Christmas and through to 4 January, our Club assisted the International Cadet Association with loan of our safety boats

during their National Championships, again based at Sandringham Yacht Club. With over 70 boats gathered from around Australia, this event contributed to a lively atmosphere in the harbour over the holiday period. Many of the Cadet sailors and their families gathered at SYC to see in the New Year, and our own Club was also well attended on the night – a good time was had by all, with a grandstand view of the fireworks along the Yarra and at Williamstown.

As usual, there has been a lot going on around the Club. Frank Leipper and his colleagues made a fantastic effort to substantially complete the 1st floor extension in time for our Christmas Dinner on 4 December – a landmark event as junior members were able to enjoy their own Christmas feast in the new room, without having to put up with the tedious chatter of us adults! Fiona Stephens and Leanne Rothacker again refused the option of using a commercial caterer, and put together an outstanding meal with Christmas pudding to spare. Special thanks are due to everyone who contributed to a great evening, including those who did the washing up.

Our Club continues to welcome a steady intake of new members, to the point at which Neil Watson now has a waiting list of applications for boat storage space. If you have an unused boat in storage at the Club, please consider removing it before subscription notices are issued for the year ahead.

I look forward to catching up with new members at sailing and social events over the next few weeks.

Stewart Simmons
Commodore

2010/2011 Sailing Season

With the Christmas period behind us, the summer sailing season has started at HSC. The 2010/2011 racing season is less than half way through, so it's not too late to join in the Club Championship series, with 7 Championship events scheduled in this half of the season.

For the Club Championship racing on 16 January, the Race Officer set a 'Sail Melbourne' windward/leeward course, with a leeward gate. Using this course configuration we managed to run two races in the afternoon. The same course configuration was used the following week for the commencement of the Autumn Aggregate series on 23 January, and again it proved to be a great success with two races completed.

Strong gusty northerly winds before the race on 30 January prompted the Race Officer to set a standard Olympic course. However, the wind dropped and we only managed one official race for the afternoon.

The summer-half of the season generally has more predictable sailing conditions, with lighter winds during the morning and the sea breeze filling in for our afternoon races. This is a great time to get down to the Club to enjoy Port Phillip Bay.

David Thompson
Sailing Secretary

Four Winds Marine 52nd Heron National Championships

Last year the Vinot family attended the 51st National Heron Championships in Adelaide where Audrey, Ingrid and Myriam crewed on various boats. This year, the championships were held from the 15th to the 20th of January 2011 at St Leonards on the Bellarine Peninsula. Céline helped out with the committee, Myriam helped out on the rescue boat, Audrey crewed for a local sailor, George, and Blaise and Ingrid borrowed a Heron to race.

Our own sailing team, Blaise and Ingrid on a very red Heron called Mutton Bird, attempted to train prior to the competition, but the weather was rotten so little improvement was made other than making sure the boat didn't leak too much!

Day 1 was the invitational race in which we finished 19th. The serious racing started on Day 2, with two back-to-back races in 15 to 18 knots of wind. The Mutton Bird completely missed the start, punched a hole in the floorboards and broke the mainsheet

pulley making sailing a bit more difficult than originally intended. To top it all off, the mast split with an ominous crack, so the Vinot team sailed edgily back to shore, their little Heron battered and broken, ready to put the pieces back together for Day 3.

Day 3 was a lay day, which was spent repairing the boat and exploring Point Lonsdale, at the head of Port Phillip Bay. Day 4 was a good day with Mutton Bird finishing 15th in one race. Day 5, the last race of the Championships, lasted only 25 minutes in very light conditions. The strong tides of the area were an added challenge to the racing and had to be factored into the racing tactics and course layout.

Entertainment during this weeklong sailing event included a welcome barbecue, a final presentation dinner and a Heron Idol night in which all competitors participated in and thoroughly enjoyed. The Vinot sisters performed and won the night with a Hungarian song. Other acts included ukulele songs, jazz performances, singing solos and a few entertaining skits, which all made for a very successful evening.

As a family we thoroughly enjoyed our week down at St Leonards, having met a lot of friendly people always ready to help and done some very good sailing. Blaise and Ingrid finished 21st overall, but we all learnt a lot about racing, protests and starts. At the end of the week we all headed back home tired but having spent a great week sailing in a friendly environment.

Clubhouse Extension – Official Opening (Saturday, 21 May 2011)



The completion of our new 1st floor extension, consisting of a training / meeting room, office and spacious storage area, will be a landmark event in the history of Hampton Sailing Club. The extension is now structurally finished, painted and carpeted – and has already been put to good use during the Club's Christmas function. As usual with any building project, various jobs still need to be finished off inside and out, but it's already clear how much value the Club will gain from these new facilities. Well done to Frank Leipper and his team for turning those initial sketches into reality.

As many members will know (thanks to a commemorative plaque on the wall near the clubhouse entrance), our existing building was opened on 26 March 1966 by the then Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, as the new headquarters of the Victorian Ladies Yacht Club (VLYC). Six months later, on the 21st anniversary of the formation of the VLYC, Lady Delacombe returned to unveil the Commodores' Board which is still displayed upstairs at the Club, and accepted the office of Commodore-in-Chief. The VLYC extended its membership to include males in 1982, and changed its name to 'Hampton Sailing Club' in the following year.

Although nothing as grand as a Vice-Regal presence is expected on this occasion, it does seem fitting to celebrate the completion of the new clubhouse extension, as a further milestone in the unique history of our Club. Such an event also provides an opportunity for us to extend an invitation to the many people who have contributed to that history (whether under the banner of the VLYC or Hampton Sailing Club), to share their recollections about the Club and its surrounding coastal landscape.

Plans for the opening are currently under discussion, but the suggested date is **Saturday, 21 May 2011** (the weekend prior to this year's Annual General Meeting). To enable elderly members and guests to attend, the suggested arrival time is 1:30pm, with proceedings to begin at 2:00pm and run for about two hours. During the afternoon, we will officially open the new extension, show

two short videos (45 minutes & 30 minutes) dealing with the history of our Club and its surroundings, and of course allow plenty of time for refreshments and catching up with friends.

Please mark this date in your diary, with arrangements to be confirmed in the April *Main Sheet*.

Stewart Simmons
Commodore

Marine VHF Radio Operator's Certificate Course – March 2011



Places are still available on this short training course, to be held at the Club on the evenings of **Monday, 21 March** and **Monday, 28 March** (2 x 4 hour sessions). The presenter will be Ross McAllan of the Peninsula Boat Licence Training Centre.

This course is particularly relevant to Club members who wish to participate in race management, either on the water or as a shore-based duty officer. A working knowledge of marine radio can make an important contribution to the safety of all sailing and boating activities in our local area, and members are encouraged to take up this valuable training opportunity.

The course is free of charge to Club members, and all necessary materials will be provided. However, places are limited – if you wish to book, please contact Stewart Simmons as soon as possible (phone 9598 6954 during evenings / weekends; email simmons@westnet.com.au), or add your name to the list currently posted on the Club notice board.

Stewart Simmons
Commodore

Use of the Yard and Boat Storage Matters

To try and relieve some of the access problems being experienced near the rear gate, I have reallocated two of the boat storage spots to smaller dinghies. And to assist members with these and other changes, I have placed a schedule showing allocated spots on the Club's Notice Board.

It is important that boats be returned their correct spot, otherwise the allocated member may become confused and believe that they no longer have the right to store a boat in the yard.

I recommend that all members with boats stored at the Club read the schedule.

Four Club trolleys have been made for the use of members to take their boats to the water and retrieve them. They have been painted yellow for easy identification.

From time to time, I see them holding boats in the yard or even put away with them in the racks. They were never intended to store boats as this denies their use to other members.

With our growing membership, storage in the yard has become critical and the Committee has been advising prospective members that the remaining space is required for rigging on race days.

From time to time, for convenience sake, boats are taken out of their storage spot and left in the yard. Normally this is not a problem during the week and out side of the sailing season however this is not the case on race days.

In view of this, boats that are not to be raced should be placed back in their allocated spot and any smaller classes, such as Sabots, should be placed as near as possible to the shed.

Neil Watson
Boat Storage Officer

Sailing Gear Swap Meet - Sunday, 27 February

WHERE: HSC clubrooms

WHEN: Sunday, 27th February

TIME: 11:00 am onwards

If you have any sailing gear that you would like to sell, barter, exchange etc.

Price it with an attached envelope for recording purposes.

Place clean items on the clubhouse table for inspection.

Larger items are to be placed outside with a note on the table as to their whereabouts.

Michelle Moller

Archiving Club Records

Initial discussions have recently taken place with representatives of Sandringham & District Historical Society, which may result in transfer of our Club's older records (particularly those dating to the era of the Victorian Ladies Yacht Club, 1945-1983) to secure archival storage. In addition to safeguarding the records from loss or damage, this transfer would also make the information available for appropriate research, for example into the history of sailing in Victoria, or the contribution of women in sport.

Although the records held at the Club are quite substantial, there do appear to be some gaps. If any member knows of original VLYC or Hampton Sailing Club records that are held outside of the Club, it would be timely if we could retrieve that material and add it to the collection. This will allow the best possible inventory to be completed before any decisions are made regarding transfer.

If you wish to discuss this request, or would like assistance in returning records to the Club, please contact me (on 9598 9818) or Stewart Simmons (on 9598 6954).

Martin Playne
Secretary

Safety Boat Handling Course

HSC will be running a Safety Boat Handling course during April. The course will be facilitated by Doug King.

Course Dates:

- Friday 15th April, 18:30 – 22:30
- Saturday 16th April, 08:30 – 21:30
- Saturday 30th April, 08:30 – 16:00

Details:

Running over one evening and two full days, the course covers everything required to safely and competently manage a safety boat. The curriculum includes a significant number of 'on water' hours and practical exercises, as well as some classroom work.

We have a maximum of 10 places available for this course. A Motor Boat Licence/Powerboat Handling Certificate is a prerequisite, and students must be 16 years or older.

To secure a place in this course, put your name down on the "Safety Boat Course Enrolment" form on the Club noticeboard, or contact David Thompson.

Safety Boat Handling Certificate – Typical Course Curriculum

- Introduction
- Coxswain Responsibility
- Risk Management
- Preparation of Boat
- Navigation Exercise Preparation
- Tactics and Towing Theory
- Night Navigation Exercise
- Righting of Overturned Vessels
- Towing
- Close Quarters Handling
- Coming Alongside Underway
- Recovery of persons from Water
- Towing / Close Quarters Handling
- Beaching
- Search and Rescue

David Thompson
Sailing Secretary

Safety Alert – Trapeze Harness

Yachting Victoria (YV) has recently issued information alerting sailing clubs to the risks associated with use of trapeze harnesses, specifically in situations where users can become trapped under a capsized yacht if the harness hook gets snagged.

Race management teams working on the recent Sail Melbourne regatta were specifically briefed on this issue, and safety boat crews were asked to ensure that they had appropriate gear on board (such as a sharp knife and wire cutters) to deal with any such incident. In addition, it was emphasized that priority had to be given to righting a capsized yacht, if it appeared that a crew member had become trapped underneath.

Given the increasing popularity of boats that involve use of a trapeze, it is timely to draw attention to the following guidelines, issued by YV's Risk Management & Safety Committee. A copy of these guidelines has also been posted on the Club's notice board.

The risk of entrapment on or under a capsized yacht by a trapeze harness hook
Yachting Victoria (YV) recognizes the risk of entrapment by a trapeze harness hook on, or under a capsized yacht. Evidence suggests that trapeze harness users can become entrapped by the hook on the harness being caught by:

- *piercing a trampoline or mesh wing or the deck or hull and then becoming stuck;*
- *becoming snagged on other parts of the boat rigging including shrouds, hiking (toe) straps and vang; or*
- *becoming tangled and caught in sheets.*

YV recognizes that ISAF has been trying to address this risk through the development of a standard for quick release trapeze harness hooks. However to date there are no known satisfactory quick release hooks on the Australian market.

YV has recommended to Yachting Australia that YA make a submission to ISAF that in the absence of an available quick release hook, ISAF develop and implement a program

alerting sailors to the risks of entrapment.

The program should be promulgated to sailors by MNA's, MYA's, class associations and affiliated sailing clubs by providing information in race briefings and on club and regatta notice boards.

YV has further recommended to YA that YA:

- *expand the content of the Race Officials Course to include a specific module to raise awareness that entrapment incidents may occur;*
- *expand the content of the Safety Boat endorsement course to include a specific module to raise awareness that entrapment incidents may occur and how to effectively rescue an entrapped sailor*

Until ISAF is able to provide a recommendation as to a satisfactory type of quick release hook and implement the above program and YA is able to consider and implement the above recommendations, YV recommends to all member clubs that they:

- *brief all rescue boat crew on the risk and dangers of entrapment and methods of recovery. Immediately it becomes apparent that a sailor has not surfaced and may be entrapped, all efforts should be directed towards righting the yacht to bring the sailor to the surface. In the case of catamarans, rescue boat crew should also be prepared to cut the trampoline. When the sailor has been brought to the surface, other equipment that should be carried by rescue boat crew should be used to release the trapped sailor; and*
- *make it mandatory for rescue boats to be equipped with sharp knives to cut sheets, trampoline, harnesses etc to free a sailor and bolt / wire cutters to cut rigging; and*
- *urge sailors to:*
 - o *keep lines and sheets organised in the boat;*
 - o *wear close fitting clothing and personal buoyancy;*
 - o *carry a sharp, well maintained and easily accessible, preferably serrated knife and ensure crew know where the knife is located and are prepared to use it to cut a harness or trampoline mesh; and*

o wear clothing and equipment which is unlikely to snag or can be easily freed.

This procedure was followed for the ISAF Sailing World Cup – Sail Melbourne at Sandringham Yacht Club in December 2010.

*Jenni Maclean
Chair YV Risk Management and Safety Committee.*

Newsletter Items

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

Newsletters are published every 2 months and we are trying to get the *Main Sheet* distributed at the beginning of the month.

Russell Brown
Newsletter Editor

Boats for Sale

Check the Club notice board for details of boats for sale. Please note that boats advertised might not be housed at the club or may not belong to club members.



Hampton Sailing Club 2010/11 Season - Junior & Family Sailing Calendar**On the water: – 10:00 am**

Date	Race
20-Feb-2011	Junior / Family
06-Mar-2011	Junior / Family
27-Mar-2011	Junior / Family
10-Apr-2011	Junior / Family
01-May-2011	Junior / Family

Hampton Sailing Club 2010-2011 Season – Racing Calendar

Briefing: – 1:00pm

Start: – 2:00pm

Date	Event		Notes / Other Events	Lady Isa		Hampton Red	
				Race Officer	Assistant	Skipper	Swimmer
16-Jan-11	Club Championship	5		Stewart Simmons	Jeff Ward	Frank Leipper	John Paxinos
23-Jan-11	Autumn Series	1		Stewart Simmons	Jeff Ward	Frank Leipper	John Paxinos
30-Jan-11	Club Championship	6		Stewart Simmons	Richard Skews	Michael Cook	Andrew Cook
06-Feb-11	Autumn Series	2	Vic Laser Masters/Youth Regatta	Richard Skews	John Paxinos	Michael Cook	Andrew Cook
13-Feb-11	Club Championship	7		Richard Skews	Charles Bagossy	Russell Brown	William Brown
20-Feb-11	Autumn Series	3	Lidgett Trophy Weekend (Juniors)	Richard Skews	TBC	Russell Brown	William Brown
27-Feb-11	Club Championship	8		John Adshead	TBC	Richard Skews	Paul Johnson
06-Mar-11	Autumn Series	4		John Adshead	Steve Moller	Richard Skews	Paul Johnson
13-Mar-11	Labour Day Race		Various State Champs weekend	Steve Moller	John Paxinos	Blaise Vinot	Kate Vinot
20-Mar-11	Club Championship	9		Steve Moller	Paul Stephenson	Blaise Vinot	Kate Vinot
27-Mar-11	Autumn Series	5		Charles Bagossy	Jeff Ward	David Seymour	Kerry Seymour
03-Apr-11	Club Championship	10		Charles Bagossy	Frank Leipper	David Seymour	Kerry Seymour
10-Apr-11	Autumn Series	6		Frank Leipper	Sheila O'Shea	Monica Jones	Ralph Brown
17-Apr-11	Club Championship	11		Frank Leipper	Jeff Ward	Monica Jones	Ralph Brown
24-Apr-11	Easter Holiday	no race					
01-May-11	End of Season race			Frank Leipper	Stewart Simmons	Fiona Stephens	Julie Brennan-Smith

