



# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



MARCH 1993

**RL24 - It's YOUR kind of boat**

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 1993

PRESIDENT - John Wood "Street Car" (045) 725764  
SECRETARY - Kevin Troy "Slippery When Wet" (02) 476 1771  
TREASURER - Mike Stevens "Treasure Island"

FROM THE PRESIDENTS PLATFORM

Thankyou for giving me the opportunity to lead the premier class association for the next 12 months and an extra big thankyou to Sue Graham and her team, including Don Lewis, Ron McCrindle and Lloyd for their efforts over the past three years. congratulations on a job well done.

The 1993 Nationals proved once again that the RL24 Association is alive and kicking on a National basis with representatives from Qld, NSW, Victoria and even far North Queensland. Congratulations to Laurie Ward and team, and the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club who hoasted a great series from both race management and social points of view.

The Standard of competition in the titles was excellent in a fleet that included six former National Champions in Drop Keel, and two in the Swing Keel Divisions. Congratulations to the crews of Ohau Rua and Street Car, our Champions for 1993, and to all competitors who competed in the series and provided such stiff opposition. The points score was certainly no indication of the closeness of the competition.

Planning for the 1994 Nationals at Mannering Park, Lake Macquarie, is already well under way and all who attended the series there in 1990 will know that another great series is assured. Lake Macquarie provides an excellent venue for a holiday, while offering perfect facilities and water for a National Title Series.

PLAN NOW TO MAKE TRACKS TO MANNERING PARK : 30DEC - 6JAN

The 1994 Title will feature a OVERALL HANDICAP EVENT in addition to the Drop & Swing Keel scratch events. North Sails have offered to provide prizes to promote this event. Handicaps will be based on a 3 race mini invitation series which replaces the normal Invitation Race, and will be adjusted after every race. Hence, there will be no necessity to race out and refit the boat or spend a fortune on sails, in order to be competitive. Just BE IN IT, THEN CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING YOUR PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE SERIES. The "hotshots" will probably have hit their peak prior to the series.

Thank you to Ross Corben, Kevin Troy and Alex Kostin for their valued contributions to the newsletter. It was great to see Alex, and his team from Townsville, at the Nationals. Alex has been very active since and has stirred up the other North Queensland RL Owners and is making plans to be at Mannering Park in December.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Peter Hackett and Len Spooner who have taken out first and second respectively in the Victorian Trailable Titles.



## NATIONAL TITLES 1993

Cabbage Tree Creek is an interesting little waterway which empties into Moreton Bay just a kilometre or two north of the Brisbane River. However, it is no more remarkable than thousands of other such tidal creeks located around the Australian coast except for the fact that it is home to the famous Queensland Cruising Yacht Club. Known widely for its annual Brisbane-Gladstone Race, the Q.C.Y.C. very kindly agreed to host the 1993 RL24 National Championships and, as expected, turned on an excellent regatta.

Lawrie and Merle Ward, who sail "Calibre" undertook the daunting task of organising the event and its success was largely due to their hard work. Race organiser Ken McIntyre and his team deserve special thanks for their work in managing the races so efficiently and setting outstanding courses for the entire series.

As for the racing, it was full of interest although, in the final analysis, both our champions had emphatic wins. John Wood (with help from "Knuckles", Roger and Prodda) on "Streetcar" reclaimed the Swing Keel title he last won at Mannering Park and, as usual, humbled a few Drop Keelers along the way. Don Hallett, sailing "Commissioner", kept Woody honest as did Alex Kostin who brought "Minkie" down from Townsville. Alex revelled in the heavier breezes, especially upwind for which the boat seemed to have a particular liking. In the Drop Keel division, Simon Walsh with Bert, "Moon" and Darren sailed "Ohau Rua" brilliantly to win every heat and the Invitation Race. "Ohau Rua" is a Mk.2 which was built up from a bare hull and deck in the mid 1970s by Simon's father, Jack. Originally a swing keel, it was converted to a drop keel configuration some time ago. After deciding to campaign seriously, the Walsh's have lightened and strengthened the boat and re-rigged it with a Goldspar mast and North sails. In 1992 Simon and his crew finished equal first with Ken Hackett in the Nationals held at Lake Wellington but this year they took the honours alone. Rod Young ("Pipe Dream") had a tight grip on second place for most of the regatta but third place was undecided until the last heat. The contenders were Mick Shannon ("Lowana VI"), Lawrie Ward ("Calibre"), and Dave Parmeter ("F-Troop") none of whom were able to disguise the tension they felt as the last heat approached. Mick went for the smokes (for the first time in ages) while Dave opted for an early night the evening preceding the race (for the first time in ages!) Lawrie dug out a pile of old photos of very handsome men hanging around a Sharpie and hawked them around the camp trying to convince the rest of us he was one of them. In the event, the smokes were more effective than either the early night or the reminiscences of a glorious youthhood as Mick finished second in the heat thus claiming third place in the Championship.

The Final Results for all competitors are shown in the attached table.

Next year the circus moves to Mannering Park on the southern shores of Lake Macquarie. This is a terrific venue which offers really good launching, sailing, camping and social facilities. The M.P.S.C. conducted an excellent championship series for our Association in 1991 and already planning is well in hand for the 1994 series. Dates and other details appear elsewhere in this newsletter but for the benefit of those who have not been to Mannering Park it should be mentioned that the Club is located immediately next door to the Monterey Caravan Park which offers a

pleasant, grassed and level area for camping or, alternatively, can often arrange the hire of on-site caravans. It also has its own launching facilities only metres from the Yacht Club's ramps. A small shopping centre is a comfortable 3-5 minutes stroll away while major shopping centres are within 10-15 mins drive. Altogether, a great place for a sail and to get together with all those other people who agree the RL24 is our sort of boat.

### 1992/3 NSW RL 24 CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### 6TH & 7TH FEBRUARY - LAKE ILLAWARRA

The entries might have been down but the standard of the Fleet was impressive.

Race one - the RL Fleet was immersed in the middle of the NSW TYA 3rd heat of their titles, with Mike Stevens in Treasure Island taking the honours at the first windward mark, followed by a big bunch including Slippery When Wet, Big Deal, Radical Lady, September Song, Amazing Grace and Meriki 2. At the end of the day Wal Curry in Amazing Grace headed off John Portess in Meriki 2 for the Swing Keels.

Slippery When Wet led home the Drop Keels followed by Dick Voller in Big Deal and Treasure Island Mike Stevens.

Sunday morning Race two with the TY Fleet on shore the RL's had the track to themselves starting in a consistent 10 knot breeze freshening gradually.

Swing Keels Wal Curry - Amazing Grace again topped Meriki 2. Slippery When Wet led Big Deal home and John Bubb in Radical Lady third. Jane Davenport jumped ship during the race and Viv Davenport made sure everyone knew about it at the Presentation.

Race three - the only way to describe the race was a Witches Broth, add Lake Illawara, a touch of Lake Wellington and some gouls in boats. With the seaweed blowing off the top of the waves onto the sails, Big Deal put on a great show of some fast sailing under spinnaker, finishing 1st to Slippery When Wet followed by John Bubb in Radical Lady.

#### FINAL RESULTS

##### SWING KEELS

WAL CURRY - AMAZING GRACE  
JOHN PORTENS - MERIKI 2

##### DROP KEELS

KEVIN KAY - SLIPPERY WHEN WET  
DICK VOLLER - BIG DEAL  
JOHN BUBB - RADICAL LADY

A great weekend had by all on short notice. One interesting result was in the 35 strong TYA Fleet on Saturday in 10-15 knot



conditions bearing in mind the Innaugaril Australian Trailer sailor Titles to be held at Toronto Lake Macquarie:-

1st - Hartley 16

2nd - Amazing Grace - RL 24 Swing Keel

3rd - Slippery When Wet - RL 24 Drop Keel

The result had everyone looking at Handicaps with the quality fleet containing 5 x E.7 - 1 x E.7.4 - 1 x E.5.9 - 2 Spider 28's - 1 Spider 22 - 4 Masrams - 2 Modifieds - The Youngs and Magnums 28s, I can't remember the saying - something about old and treacherous .....

The result may have been the recipe for disaster for Wal Curry and Mike Stevens. Wal found a bottle of red behind the fridge at the Clubhouse (Est 10 years old, vintage unknown, winemaker unknown) and it looked absolutely foul and to my amazement he drank it!!! The obvious result with Wal going slower and Mike a lot slower.

### A POSITIVE LOOK AT NEGATIVE BUOYANCY

#### KEVIN TROY

With a recent capsized and eventual sinking by one of our members I have been prompted into putting pen to paper on RL 24 buoyancy.

I do not wish to alarm owners but ask all owners to check for a structural fault bought on by age, fatigue plus ignorance.

The bottom line is this, the Negative Buoyancy Tanks are in some cases failing.

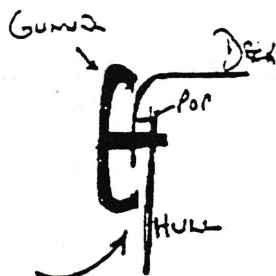
The forward tank and mainly the aft tanks are coming away from the hull sides.

Some points to come out of ignorance are:-

1. The RL 24 must be trailed or stored on its keel
2. Multi rollers should not be used
3. Side skids or rails are to rest the boat on not for the boat to sit on when being trailed (there is a difference).

All of these points contribute to side flex and the eventual fatigue of the bulkhead from the hull in small areas.

The gunnell of the RL can be hiding another problem in that where the Deck (see diagram) sits on the hull and is siliconed and pop rivetted on - movement can take place.



This is eventually found out by sailing in conditions where there is small steep wave which can push up under the Gunnell finding its way eventually into the tank or under the cabin sole.

Another practice is rolling the boat over on dry land with the mast up. Sure it is an easy way at getting at the keel or hull but use a mattress or a whole pile of lounge cushions and get it on its gunnell as soon as possible - not cock it halfway.

The quick fix method or just turn a negative into a positive.

The forward tank - I have put an inspection port in the anchor well, then using chopped foam not balls (I have submersed the chopped foam for 7 days and no noticable absorbtion). The reason for this is easier to remove to get at the towing eye MK3/4 also filling it only 9/10 of the capacity. A small weep hole or another inspection port can be fitted inside at the base of the bulkhead for mopping up.

The outside locker - add two more inspection ports (starboard and port) also using chopped foam or pressure pack insulation foam (read the instructions) it can really dispace any leakage through the gunnell, also making them good esky's.

the internal mould where it joins the hull aft also needs checking as flexing at the point even though small, any break in the join will allow water to seep between the floor as such to the low spot behind the keel.

1993 RL 24 AUSTRALIAN TITLES

	INV	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6	HT7	PTS	POS
<u>SWING KEEL</u>										
31 AQUILA	dnf	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	24	4
269 STREET CAR	1	1/	1/	3/3	1/	1/	1/	1/	4.75	1
350 MINKIE	2	3/3	5/5	2/2	2/2	3/3	3/3	2/2	15	3
411 COMMISSIONER	3	2/2	2/2	1/	3/3	2/2	2/2	3/3	11.75	2
550 HERE'S LUCK	dns	5/5	3/3	5/5	dnf	dns	dns	dns	31	5
<u>DROP KEEL</u>										
152 PEGASUS	6	7/7	3/3	6/6	8/8	9/9	7/7	7/7	38	7
199 OHAU RUA	1	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	4.75	1
303 CALIBRE	7	4/4	8/8	3/3	3/3	4/4	6/6	4/4	24	=4
405 BUNYIP	8	8/8	9/9	9/9	7/7	8/8	9/9	9/9	50	9
427 LOWANA VI	4	3/3	7/7	5/5	5/5	3/3	4/4	2/2	22	3
454 PIPE DREAM	2	2/2	2/2	4/4	2/2	2/2	2/2	3/3	13	2
500 F TROOP	5	6/6	4/4	2/2	4/4	6/6	3/3	5/5	24	=4
508 KANDY MAN	3	5/5	5/5	7/7	6/6	5/5	5/5	6/6	32	6
600 COSMIC SEDSO	9	9/9	6/6	8/8	9/9	7/7	8/8	8/8	46	8



Just a small letter of thanks to all of the guys who attended the Nationals at Brisbane over the Christmas Break. After the big drive down from Townsville the welcome we received was touching indeed; so touching that we'll be doing our darndest to make it to next year's event at Mannering Park. Even with a few flooded creeks here and there, we managed to tow the boat back to Townsville in under 18 hours. A top time for us!

And now for a little tip!

A terrific innovation which a friend and myself discovered out at Little Trunk Reef one windy night was a new use for our spinnaker pole and drogue anchor. Given that we were anchoring 28 miles offshore in 20 knots of wind, and that high tide was going to peak at 9 o'clock with 3 metres of water running over the reef, creative stabilisation became the top priority to our spare time.

The problem with Minki is that she's a swing keeler with a very sloppy 'keel - centre case' fit. This means that when the keel is down by 30% or more she "klonks" like mad. (you'd think I'd fix it wouldn't you!)

Basically what we did was suspend the spinnaker pole abeam of the boat by the pole topping lift. The two spin sheets were used to control the pole in its fore and aft attitude. We then tied our dive weights to the tail end of our drogue anchor and lowered it two metres below the surface. The spin halyard is the best line to directly attach to the drogue.

While this small innovation was enough to get us by for the night, we have developed a much better system which balances the boat by using the jockey pole and another drogue on the opposite side of the boat.

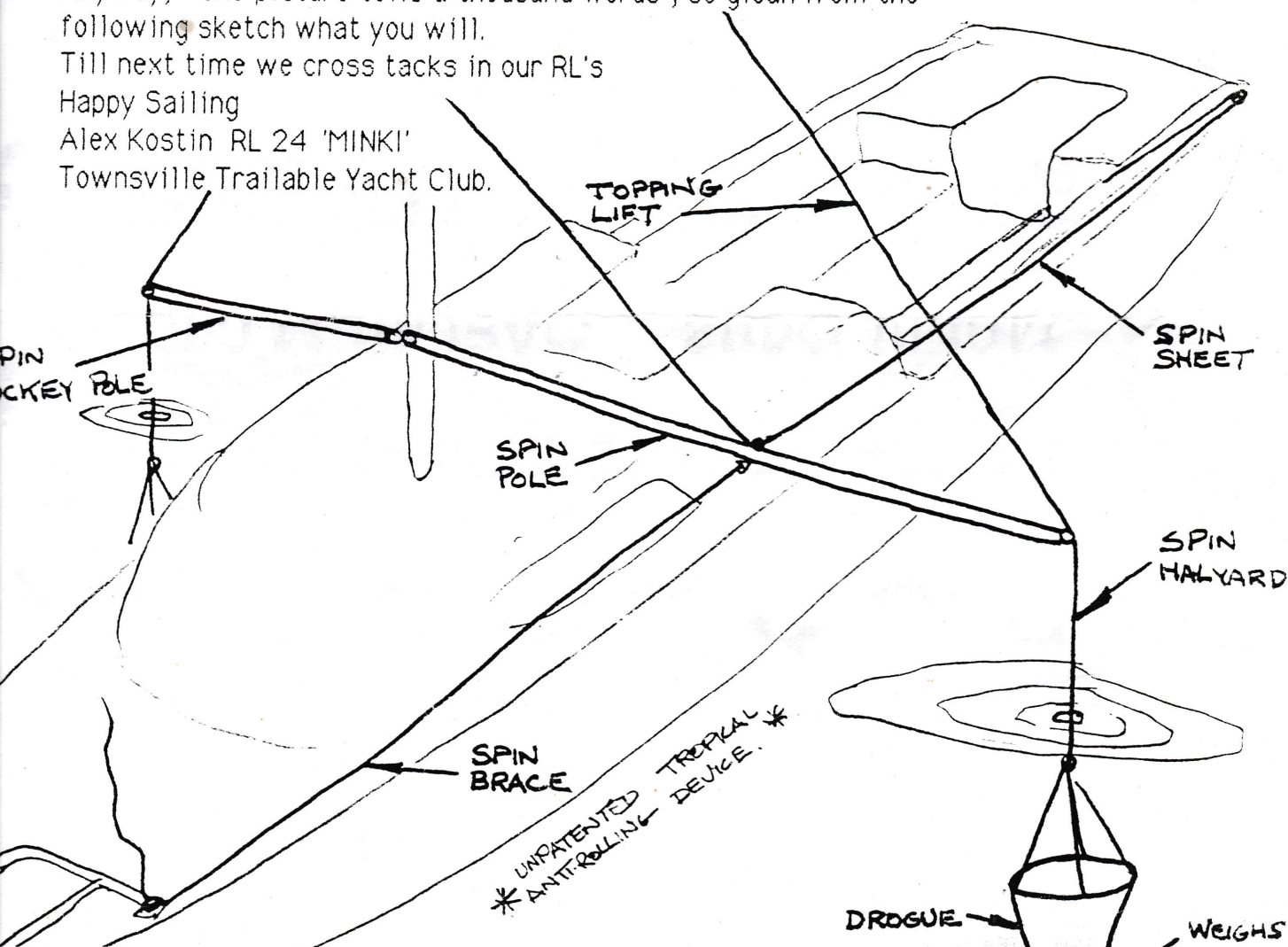
Anyway, "one picture tells a thousand words", so glean from the following sketch what you will.

Till next time we cross tacks in our RL's

Happy Sailing

Alex Kostin RL 24 'MINKI'

Townsville Trailable Yacht Club.



21<sup>st</sup> NATIONAL  
RL24 CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANNERING PARK  
LAKE MACQUARIE, NSW

30 Dec 93 - 8 Jan 94

Swing & Drop Scratch Titles

North Sails - Overall H/cap

3 Race Min Invitation Series