

JUNE 1995



## NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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\* CONGRATULATIONS "SASHA" - NATIONAL CHAMPION 1995 \*

RL 24 NATIONAL TITLES - RHYLL JANUARY '95

Rhyll Yacht Club, located on the north-eastern side of Phillip Island in Western Port Bay was host to a very successful RL24 National Championship Regatta held during the first week of January 1995.

Like the hospitality, the weather was beautifully warm but the winds varied greatly in direction and strength. This must have been a constant nightmare for O.O.D. and former RL24 National Champion, Barry Aitken, but despite the very trying circumstances he and his crew did an outstanding job and much of the credit for the success of the regatta belongs to them.

For the race crews, the variety of winds offered plenty of challenges and some wonderful spinnaker runs as well as the odd spot of drama. Ricky Slater from Colac, in a desperate bid for glory, joined the celebrated ranks of RL24 skippers who have seen their keels pointing to the heavens when he and "Crackerjack" had a minor altercation with the elements. The elements won and Ricky swam.

On the water, the series was notable for the dominance of three of the oldest boats in the fleet, all sailed by second generation RL24 "kids" who have displaced their fathers from the drivers' seats. Simon Walsh, who with his Dad's "Ohau Rua" has dominated the trailable yachting scene in Victoria for the last three years, was challenged by Peter Hackett sailing his father Ken's "Sasha", and Jamie McDonald sailing Graeme's "Solitaire". Only the veteran Mick Shannon ("Lowana VI") and Red Edwards ("Pipe Dream") were able to offer any sustained resistance to the charge of the young brigade although senior citizen Bruce Castles ("Pegasus") put in a good one in heat five and picked up a third place. Garry Slater, usually to be found skippering his faithful swing keeler "Lindy Lou", took the helm of "Slippery When Wet" to good effect, notching up a fourth in heat four.

The big improver during the series was Don Lewis ("Lowana V") who finished sixth overall just ahead of Mike Stephens, ("Treasure Island"), the only interstate entry. Geoff Vaughan washed three years of accumulated dust off "Liaison" and after a couple of heats showed he had lost nothing through his absence from the RL circuit.

Paul Borg with "Phantom" was the sole swing keeler in the fleet and raced to his C.B.H. Paul may have had a problem or two out on the track but his performance was good enough to secure the "Toad of Barmera" trophy and his speech at the Presentation Night was a Classic - one of the highlights of a great night. As usual, Ron McCrindle supported the Regatta enthusiastically, but his chances were stymied by D.N.F.s in heats one and two. He did better when Kate arrived but by then the damage was done. At the end of the week, Peter Hackett had emphatically stamped his authority on the class with five wins and a second, the last heat being abandoned. Our National President, Simon Walsh, finished second with Jamie McDonald third. These young people are not only excellent sailors but are also outstanding ambassadors for both the RL24 Association and the sport of sailing generally. They deserve our heartiest congratulations and support as do their loyal and hardworking crews. Full Regatta results are shown on the attached table.

NATIONAL TITLES 1995 POINTSCORE

Boat & Skipper	Sail No.	Ht.1	Ht.2	Ht.3	Ht.4	Ht.5	Ht.6	Points	Final Place.
Solitaire									
J.McDonald	25	4	3	2	5	4	3	16	3
Sasha									
P.Hackett	102	1	2	1	1	1	1	3 3/4	1
Pegasus									
B.Castles	152	10	11	11	8	3	7	39	9
Ohau Rua									
S.Walsh	199	3	1	4	2	2	2	9 3/4	2
Lowana V									
D.Lewis	402	5	5	9	6	6	10	31	6
Lowana VI									
M.Shannon	427	2	4	3	3	12	5	17	4
Liaison									
G.Vaughan	431	9	9	8	11	7	8	41	10
Bunyip									
R.McCrindle	405	DNF	DNF	12	9	11	15	62	13
Pipe Dream									
R.Edwards	454	PMS	6	5	7	5	4	27	5
TreasureIs.									
M.Stephens	505	6	7	6	10	9	6	34	7
Crackerjack									
R.Slater	552	7	DNF	10	13	8	DNF	53	11
Cosmic Sedso									
R.Corben	600	11	10	13	12	14	9	55	12
Slippery									
G.Slater	808	8	8	7	4	10	DNF	37	8
Phantom									
P.Borg	52	12	DNF	14	14	13	11	64	14



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE:- Complete suit of North Skiff Rig sails ex National  
Champion "Sasha", sail No 102.  
Main 14.15 m<sup>2</sup>  
Jib 5.85 m<sup>2</sup>  
Spinnaker 20.0 m<sup>2</sup> (white)  
Replacement Cost \$3800. Will sell for \$900!!  
Will negotiate for individual sails if necessary.  
Ring Ken Hackett (03) 530 6583

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FOR SALE:- Goldspar mast complete with rigging,  
(but unrigged) all to suit RL24 Skiff Rig sails as  
recommended by North Sails ----- \$800.  
Ring Simon Walsh (051) 44 1133.

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FOR SALE:- RL24 Mk 1. Hull and Deck virtually completely recon-  
ditioned;- excellent condition. One Mainsail, 3 jibs  
and a spinnaker, sink, stove, 6h.p. Evinrude, new  
radio. On unreg. trailer.  
Stirling Buchanan (074) 74 0466. B.H.  
(074) 47 2848. A.H.

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1994-95 NISSAN REGATTA

This annual V.Y.C. regatta, sailed on Port Phillip, has again  
been dominated by the RL24.

"Ohau Rua", sailed brilliantly by our Class President Simon  
Walsh, beat all comers for the second year running. The top  
"Ohau Rua" crew were well supported by "Sasha" to give RL24's  
1st and 2nd place overall.

Heat placings in the 38 strong "fast" division were:-

Ohau Rua 1,1,1,6,5. - 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  points.

Sasha 2,2,2,DNF.7- 13 points.

Previous Nissan winner, Rob Hose, sailing the Blazer "Avalon"  
was third.

The RL's enjoyed the first three races when there was plenty  
of breeze but our C.B.H. put us out of contention in the light  
conditions of the last two heats.

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\* Footnote:- For a small fee, Ken Hackett will touch other  
people's raffle tickets after demonstrating his luck by  
walking away with the \$40,000 Nissan Coupe put up as a  
lucky draw for heat placegetters in the regatta.

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