



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2000

RL24 - It's YOUR kind of boat



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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001.

By now, you should have received your Notice of Race for our forthcoming championship regatta to be held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron at Manly on Morton Bay. If you haven't and want to enter, get in touch with Brad Taylor on (07) 3892 5472 or e-mail him at bmtaylor@powerup.com.au and he'll put you right. Brad owns and skippers *F TROOP* and has generously agreed to coordinate the event with RQYS.

WHICH REMINDS ME.....

Speaking of *F TROOP* I am reminded that she won a National Championship at Lake Wellington some years ago under the gentle guidance of Dave Parmeter and a bunch of brigands from Gladstone. There was four in the crew and Dave was the only one under 6ft. tall. They all travelled together in Dave's long-suffering Falcon with *F TROOP* tagging along behind carrying the grog. Charlie Mann was the self-appointed navigator and looking at the map, he reckoned the best shot was to skirt around metropolitan Melbourne starting at Lilydale. Thus they became the only known Europeans to tow an RL24 from Gladstone, Qld. to The Gippsland Lakes, Vic. via the Mt. Dandenong Tourist Road, Cockatoo, Powell Town and Noogee. In fact old timers around Mt. Baw Baw way still talk about the day an RL24 went through their district. At the Powell Town pub, Charlie was asked if he'd ever been to Victoria before and he told the bloke he'd lived in Melbourne for 10 years in July 1976! With any luck, we might be able to tempt Dave, Charlie et al to call in at the Championships at RQYS in January – after all they should have found their way back to Gladstone by this.

VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001.

Les Browne, our rep. on the Trailable Division of the VYC, reported that our participation as a Class in the VYC Trailable Yacht Championships held last March was much appreciated in VYC circles and our application to do the same again in 2001 would be looked upon favourably. In light of this, your committee proposes to seek VYC approval to use the 2001 VYC Trailable Yacht Championships as our Victorian State Championship series and if approval is indeed forthcoming the event will be held on 17th. and 18th. March next at the Mordialloc Motor Yacht Club. Further details and a Notice of Race will appear closer to the event, presuming we have a Newsletter scribe willing to do the job next year!

A REMINDER.

The Annual General Meeting of the RL24 Owners Association will be held at RQYS on Wednesday 10th. January 2001. The precise location and commencement time will be advised in the next Newsletter. I raise the matter now simply to remind members that our Constitution requires all those proposing to put motions to the meeting to forward their Notice of Motion(s), duly seconded, to the Hon. Secretary RL 24 Owners Association of Australia by the 8th. December next.

Memo



To: Club Commodores
Club Captains
Keelboat/Trailable Club Secretaries
Keelboat /Trailable Class Secretaries

(Please ensure the appropriate people within your club/class receive a copy of this memo)

From: Peter Bedggood
Chairman - VYC Safety Committee

Date: 23 August 2000

Re: **Standardised Safety and Seaworthiness Declaration for Season 2000-01**

In conjunction with representatives of Clubs and Class Associations the Safety Committee of the VYC has been working to develop a standardised Safety and Seaworthiness Declaration for use by keel and trailable yachts.

When implemented, along with the safety category identifying sticker, the new Declaration form will reduce administrative work for race officers and provide assurance that boats entered for events will be in compliance with the required category for the event.

As part of the implementation, the VYC will be seeking agreement from Clubs to accept entries from boats that have submitted a completed Safety and Seaworthiness Declaration to a signatory Club or Class Association, without a need for submission of another Declaration. Signatory clubs are requested to establish systems to ensure that Declarations are properly processed and stickers issued.

The concept of the safety category identifying sticker is that after submitting a completed Declaration to their Club or Class Association, boats will be issued with a sticker indicating the highest category for which the declaration applies. This sticker is to be affixed on or close to the stern of the boat in a readily visible position and will be "statement" by the boat of its continuing compliance. The sticker will have the applicable safety category prominently in the centre and the shape of the sticker will change from year to year for easy recognition.

The sticker will also serve as check for race officers, both on the water and ashore, that boats are in compliance. For big events with 60 or more entries, such as Range Races and the main trailable events, the verification of conformance will be much easier and quicker.

It will remain a recommendation that Safety Equipment Inspectors conduct audit inspections at random. The Declaration and sticker will make it simpler and quicker.

The standardised Declaration form will be available electronically from the VYC so that Clubs may tailor the form for the Category/s they for which they wish to apply and to include the name of the Club or Association. The stickers will be issued in bulk by the VYC Office for a fee to cover the cost of producing the stickers.

It should be noted that the Safety and Seaworthiness Declaration is to be signed by the Owner of the boat and is their statement of compliance. Any inspection of boats should only be made after the form is submitted and as an audit only. It is important that Safety Equipment Inspectors do not sign the Declaration form or in any way imply that they are "approving" a boat so that they are not put in a legal position of taking responsibility for assuring the safety and seaworthiness of the boat and its equipment.

A "protocol" is being prepared for circulation to involved Clubs and Class Associations and we will be asking for a statement of acceptance of the protocol by all involved.

I strongly commend this new co-operative system to all involved Clubs and Class Associations and seek your prompt response so that it may be in operation for the first racing to commence in October.

The next meeting of the Safety Committee is to be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 28 August at Royal Brighton Yacht Club and all Clubs and Associations are invited to have a representative present to discuss implementation of the scheme.