



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2001

RL24 - It's YOUR kind of boat



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From The Bosun's Chair.

The "changing times" the mass media are constantly harping about are not, it is clear, limited to politics, employment or international affairs. They have overwhelmed the sport of sailing too. If you don't believe me, have a look at the latest "Blue Book" and the newly introduced safety requirements for all trailable yachts particularly those sailing in Category 5 events. Leaving aside the vexed, if not impossible, matter of compulsory watertight main hatches, the principal issues affecting RL24's are the requirements that (1) all drop keelers built since July 1977 have their keels fully enclosed floor to deckhead and (2) all boats carry a lifebuoy complete with sea anchor and flashing light. As you might imagine, there has been some reaction on the part of your Association with Lloyd Graham, Bruce Castles and yours truly working on a submission to Yachting Victoria (formerly the VYC) seeking an exemption for RL24's from the two requirements outlined above. To date the only response has been a courteous letter from John Burgess, the Chairperson of the Trailable Yacht Division of Yachting Victoria acknowledging receipt of our submission and advising that the matter has been referred to Y.V's Safety Committee for consideration. As no one is prepared to hazard a guess at the likely outcome of our representations, there is nothing to be done but hurry up and wait. Fortunately, there is little change to the safety requirements of Cat. 6 races and as this is the category under which our National Championships are to be sailed at Loch Sport, we shouldn't have any compliance worries. But make sure you check that you've got all the gear.

National Championships 2002

The Loch Sport Boat Club is well on top of all arrangements for our forthcoming Nationals and an excellent series is assured. The Notice of Race and an Entry Form are enclosed. Lake Victoria is a wonderful sailing venue being large enough to permit true Olympic courses, deep enough to eliminate, in most circumstances, the development of nasty short seas and small enough to be generally nicely sheltered. With headlands such as Storm Point (don't be put off by the name!) and Sperm Whale Head, it is also a very scenic part of the Gippsland Lakes complex. As usual, trophies will be offered for both drop keel and swing keel divisions but this year, in accordance with the motion passed at the last AGM at RQYS, a cruising division will also be offered. To be eligible, boats in this division must be equipped with bunk cushions, stove etc. and not use spinnakers while racing. For people wanting a taste of competitive sailing but lacking the crew or boat tuning to mix it with the hotshots, this is the ideal way to get involved and all entrants in this division will be most welcome. If you are thinking of coming to Loch Sport, make sure you pre-book your accommodation. See the Notice of Race for options.

Victorian State Championships

(a) 2001

As Victorian members will recall, the 2001 State Titles were blown out and there has been no subsequent opportunity to re-schedule them. In these circumstances your Committee has decided to use heats 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the forthcoming Nationals at Loch Sport as the basis for the 2001 Victorian RL24 Championship with the best 3 heats to count. Entrants in the National Championships will be presumed to be entrants for the State Titles unless they advise the Sailing Committee at Loch Sport to the contrary. The Sailing Instructions for the Nationals shall also apply to the proposed State Championship.

(b) Victorian State Championship 2002.

Les. Browne, our rep. on the Yachting Victoria Trailable Yacht Division, has reported that Portarlington Y.C. on the Bellarine Peninsula has been chosen by the Division to host the Victorian Trailable Yacht Championships for 2002. The event has been scheduled for the first weekend in March 2002 and YV has made it clear to Les. that they would be very pleased if the RL24 Association would use the series as its State Titles. Your Committee regards the YV offer too good to refuse so expect a Notice of Race etc. nearer the event.

Did You Hear About.....

..... the Victorian couple who, a few weeks ago, were returning from the Whitsundays, their trailable yacht in tow, after a glorious 2 months of cruising. The only cloud on the horizon was an intermittent mechanical problem with the car which finally manifested itself as they pulled into a Woollies supermarket car park in Caloundra. Still wearing the faithful Stubbies and tee-shirt in which he'd spent most of his holiday, the husband suggested that the wife proceed with her shopping plans while he investigated the problem and found a solution. On struggling back to the vehicle an hour or so later with her burdensome collection of shopping bags, the good lady noticed a small crowd of on-lookers gathered around the outfit and, on further investigation, noted with dismay that they were staring at a pair of legs protruding from beneath the car. Between the legs was a piece of male apparatus which had somehow escaped the restraining influence of a pair of Y-fronts but far from taking offence, the crowd was actually enjoying this unintended display of masculinity. Somewhat embarrassed, our caring wife put down her shopping, bent down and carefully tucked the offending article back into the security of the Y-fronts. When she stood up she was somewhat astonished to see the smiling face of her beloved on the other side of the car. I am reliably informed that an unsuspecting RACQ mechanic under the car subsequently had 4 stitches in a nasty wound to his head.

RL24's and the Wild, Wild Whatever.

All you Technoheads with access to the web will be pleased to know that Chester Cairns, owner of the RL24 *Tiptoes*, emailed me the other day regarding the work he has done in setting up a web site for the Association. His email is reproduced here verbatim. Chester has clearly spent a colossal amount of time on the Association's behalf and the result will be extremely useful in keeping the Class at the leading edge of the Trailable Yacht movement.

RL24 Owners Association of Australia Web Site.

Hi All

At the RL24 Titles in Brisbane I promised to put together a web site for the association. Well its been quite busy here but finely I have got to it and I now have the basic structure in place. The site is setup so that information, documents and articles can be published reasonably easily.

The address is rl24.wwwau.com yes that's what it is. Currently it is password protected

username is chester

password is pacesetter

Password is only in place while we build the site, feedback is welcome. It is not complete yet so the currently yellow links that are around will disappear along with a couple of other oddities.

One section is a list of all member and their boats. This section also has the provision for a small article and a photo or two about your boats. We are planning to enter the list on the web site along with your email address. The list displays: boat name, type, your name and your email address.

This is the important bit.

If you object to ether your name or email or even an entry at all on this list **please let me know** refer to contact details.

It would be great to have some extra detail about your boats and some pictures.

It would also be great to have any other articles that could be published, ie cruising notes, Rig Setup, Tuning..... You get the drift.

Pictures, we need pictures.... I know, when the other boat is screaming down wind at 12 knots, so are you so who gets time to take pictures, somebody must have.

Down the track we will have a picture gallery and notice/board and maybe for sale/swap mart type of thing. Any Idea's welcome.

Any ways, my contact details are as follows

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chester@itonsite.com.au

Preferred method for getting info is by email... Then I don't have to re-type:)

Floppy disk is another option for documents.

Photo's I can scan and send back.

Also, I am desperately seeking a copy of the article written in Australian Sailing, on or about the 10th National Championships. I believe it was called RL's Roll On... or something similar

Thanks in advanced

Chester Cairns

Tiptoes

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia will be held in the club rooms of the Loch Sport Boat Club, Charles Street, Loch Sport 3851 on Wednesday, 2nd January 2002 commencing at 1730hrs sharp. In accordance with the Association's Constitution, any member wishing to propose a motion at that meeting which seeks to change the Class Rules or the Constitution of the Association must submit the proposed motion in writing to the secretary of the Association at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. All proposed motions shall then be circulated to all members for their consideration. An agenda for the AGM and copies of the Minutes of the previous AGM conducted at RQYS in Brisbane will be available at the skippers briefing to be conducted at 1300hrs on Sat. 29th Dec. 2001. (See Notice of Race)

Sail Melbourne 2002

The Sail Melbourne 2002 International Regatta starts in January 2002 and will involve 36 yacht clubs around Port Phillip Bay. Events are offered for keel boats, off-the-beach boats, multi hulls and, of course, trailable yachts. The five-heat regatta for trailables will be hosted by Mornington Y.C. with heats 1 & 2 being sailed on Saturday, 12th January 2002 and heats 3, 4 & 5 the following day. The courses are all around laid marks. Boats will race in 3 Divisions based on VYC CBH rating with Div.3 being Sports Trailables. Entry fee is \$70 if your entry is received by the organisers prior to 1700hrs on 21st December 2001 or \$100 after that date. If you want a Notice of Race and an Entry Form, either ring me (Ross Corben) on (03) 9763 7732 or visit the organisers website www.sailmelbourne.com.au enter on-line and download a Notice of Race. If you can't be on the water but would like to be involved in helping with running the Regatta, contact Jane Moffat at the Regatta Administration on 61395970066 or email her at jane@vyc.com.au

And Finally, Believe It or Not.....

Sasha is on the market! Ken Hackett, a Founding Father of the RL24 Association and long-time stalwart of the Association has advised me that, with some reluctance, he is offering his beloved *Sasha* for sale. Ken launched her new in 1974 and quickly established a position at or near the top of the racing fleet which the boat has never relinquished. *Sasha* is a multiple RL24 National and State Championship winner and in the hands of Ken's son, Pete, is a former Victorian State Trailable Yacht Champion. That particular championship was won when Pete and three mates, James Shannon, Fred Shannon and Tim Corben, entered the event on a whim, went to the regatta at Geelong and knocked off the best the State could offer in 4 out of 5 races. But *Sasha* is more than just a very successful racing machine. She has been cruised regularly and I will never forget seeing her one Saturday afternoon in August 1977 coming around the point at Airley Beach in the Whitsundays in a stiff 25kts. of breeze, a whopping reef in the main, a tiny storm jib up, everything behaving perfectly and completely under control. It was an inspirational sight. *Sasha* is fitted with an aerodynamically designed keel with her hull weight down near minimum. The hull, spars, sails and all rigging are in racing tune. The price is a most attractive \$9500 and Ken can be contacted for further details on (03) 9530 6583.

FOR SALE * SASHA * RL24 #102 * \$9500 * PHONE KEN HACKETT *
(03)9530 6583 *