



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

RL24 – It's YOUR kind of boat

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Greetings to the RL24 Diaspora (that word used in its very broadest sense of course!)

It's a useful adage, that one that goes "better late than never". Saves having to apologise, no matter how guilty one may feel about one's lack of productivity in the face of vanishing time. Of significant consolation, however, is the fact that, Newsletter or no Newsletter, the now venerable RL24 Owners Association is still not only alive but, as I hope to demonstrate via the following pages, in rude good health. When I ponder on this thing in my life which is the RL24 Association I am always reminded of one of the creeks here at our place at Merton (for the geographically challenged, East Merton is sometimes referred to as Mansfield - we're in N/E Victoria.). The point about this particular creek is that for much of the year, even a good year, it is subterranean but when conditions are right it comes bursting into life on the surface, full of energetic vitality and joy. It is an absolute pleasure to behold but its principal gift is the manner in which it sustains the spirit and even when it returns to its dark and mysterious crevasses beneath the surface *it still exists* and it leaves behind the promise of a sparkling re-emergence next year. I am enough of a romantic to think the RL24 Association is a little like that and I hope you are too.

2007 National Championships

For the first time in ages, this year's Nationals were truly *National* with boats from at least 2 States other than Victoria competing. We were delighted that Brad Taylor and his boys Elliot and Brendan made the trip from Brisbane with *F Troop* and Steve Lymbery came down from Nowra North in NSW with *Thinga Majig*, the former swing keeler *Lindy Lou* from Colac. Both did very well in their respective Divisions, Steve, in particular, taking Third Place in the Swing Keels. Brad was unlucky to miss out on, to use the overworked vernacular, a "podium finish", suffering gear problems and a couple of unfortunate mishaps involving crew. Otherwise *F Troop* would have been right amongst the money.

These Nationals, sailed on the waters of Lake King at Paynesville, were the first we've had where we hosted ourselves although the races were managed and conducted under a contract arrangement by members of the Lake Wellington Yacht Club. Race Headquarters was Bernie and Ruth Ryan's front verandah and lounge room, the Signals Made Ashore flag staff was the flag pole of the Mitre 10 store next door and Paul Ryan, Ruth and Bernie's techno whizz young son, provided wonderful service as our IT consultant as well as being the coxswain of the back-up powerboat out on the track. To the Ryans and John Sheppard, Reg. Hill and Col Svenson from LWYC, our Association owes a considerable debt of gratitude. The success of the regatta (and despite the best efforts of the weather, it WAS a success!) is very much due to their efforts and their spirit of co-operation in working with something we'd never tried before.

Preparing a piece for Australian Sailing, Wayne Hill of *Spiral Navigator* fame wrote "a strong, fast fleet, dense bushfire smoke and winds ranging from strong to elusive whispers meant that the RL24 Nationals were once again a memorable event." That's a pretty fair summary of a week that had everything. The last Heat was particularly

problematic in that bushfire smoke cut visibility to less than 500m. thus causing a considerable delay to the Start. However, RL crews are nothing if not inventive and the word quickly spread around the fleet that a raft-up of all 18 boats would establish some sort of record and even if it didn't, it would still be a lot of fun to do. So, shrouded in orange smoke, the entire fleet manoeuvred into one long side-by-side line which, from where I was viewing proceedings (the Start Boat), looked like nothing so much as the famed Lake King Monster. The LKM is rarely seen these days. In fact the last reported sighting was by Lloyd Graham who chanced upon it one night during a Marlay Point Overnight Race. Unfortunately, when Lloyd sailed over to investigate more closely, the LKM took umbrage at the intrusion, seized *The Sting* and tossed it upside down much to Lloyd's discomfort. But I digress.

After 7 races, *Whatever* (Darren Dyer) emerged as the winner of the Swing Keel Division after a good tussle with Ian Lane and *This Way Up* while *Thinga Majig* (Steve Lymbery) claimed third place. Darren's win follows his 2nd. place last year and is a fitting result for the effort, time and money he has put into the boat. *Street Car* (Paul Davis) notched up a couple of third placings while Ian Cook, ably assisted by Bryan Cuthbertson and Paul Cabrie on *Screamin' Blue Murder* scored a meritorious 4th in Heat 6. Wayne and Greta Hill did well with *Spiral Navigator* considering they were using her as a floating caravan but rudder problems gave them grief and they missed a heat or two.

In the Drop Keel arena, the result went to the wire with *Wings* (Craig Rainey) having to finish 5th or better in Heat 7 to win the Championship while *Ohau Rua* (Simon Walsh) needed to finish 1st to take the trophy. Third place was also hotly contested between Bernie Ryan (*Spud Gun*) and *F Troop* (Brad Taylor). In the event, it was Brad who fought his way through the smoke haze to take the gun while Simon had to settle for 2nd. Bernie finished 4th in the heat and thus 4th overall. *Wings* was uncharacteristically back in the field but lifted when it mattered most and claimed the critical 5th place to take out yet another National Championship. Adam Chambers skippered *Pipe Dream* in a Nationals for the first time and sailed very consistently. Mick Shannon, handicapped by having James on the foredeck of *Lowana* vi, struggled valiantly and had an engrossing, series-long tussle with Jeff Germaine (*Running Late*), Paul Corben (*Cosmic Sedso*) and *Sasha* (Michael Reid). In the end *Lowana* claimed sixth place, Paul and Jeff tied for 7th. and *Sasha* was 8th.

The Cruising Division was a match race between the Cassar and Hetherington families sailing *Splice* and *Miss Tress* respectively. The former is a Drop Keeler while "The Mistress" sails in Swing Keel configuration. Results were calculated using the CBH rating system and at the end of the series, *Slice* was the winner.

Congratulations, of course, to the winners and place-getters but special congratulations to all competitors. This series was a bit of an adventure for the Class from an administrative point of view and the universal good humour and outstanding co-operation of all who participated made the entire regatta a most enjoyable sailing and social experience. A full set of results, kindly prepared by Jane and Paul Davis is attached.

Bruce Castles Participation Award.

This year, the Bruce Castles trophy was awarded to three women who have been loyal, generous and very keen supporters of the RL24 Association for many years. The winners are Pam Cuthbertson, Jane Davis and Carol Cabrie. Pam and Carol are part of the successful *This Way Up* crew while Jane is an essential member of the *Street Car* team. All belong to the Colac Yacht Club. Incredibly none have missed an RL24 regatta since they first became involved more than a decade ago but their sailing is not limited to RL events. They participate widely in other trailable yacht races around Victoria where they are excellent ambassadors for our Class. Their interest in and involvement with RL24 activities contributes substantially to the health and vitality of this Association and we are all indebted to them for their refreshing enthusiasm and commitment.

Toad of Barmera

For most of its 33 year history, the National Championship regatta of this Association has been the quintessential sailing circus – good clean fun and something to appeal to everyone. Plenty of top class sailing, boat innovation, outstanding if not awe-inspiring bursts of sheer excitement and, happily, the odd (or frequent) funny/peculiar incident either on or off the water. For example, recall the joy of Peter Jackman at Barmera (Lake Bonney, SA) in the 1978 series abandoning his race to spend the afternoon swimming off his boat while the rest of us struggled around the course in a boiling hot drifter. Such was his pleasure that Peter quite forgot to let anyone know he'd chosen to retire and the Committee Boat stayed out on the course till after dark waiting for him to finish. The same Peter had driven to The Riverland from Ingham in FNQld. towing his boat behind his trusty HQ station wagon. Unfortunately, not long after he departed Ingham, it jammed in 2nd gear where it stayed for the entire journey to Barmera. After the titles, he drove home again, still in 2nd gear. That's called conclusive consistency and it is this which is the sine qua non of the Toad Trophy. Not surprising Peter was the inaugural winner of this most prestigious trophy.

So it grieves me to report that participants in RL24 regattas of recent years have become so adroit at this sailing caper that the number of interesting interludes to the otherwise mind-numbing spectacle of watching sailboats chasing one another has diminished alarmingly. This year was no better. The field for the Toad of Barmera Trophy consisted only of a busted rudder (*Spiral Navigator*), a stinging jelly fish inside a crewman's jocks (*Whatever* – the victim being Mitchell Dyer. Don't ask how it got there but the result was a spectacular modern dance routine!) and the afore-mentioned trials and tribulations of M.J.Shannon Esq. who had to tolerate the underwhelming performance of his eldest son on the foredeck. That was it until up stepped or rather off stepped the crew on Brad Taylor's *F Troop*. In an early heat, one of the Taylor boys inadvertently went over the side (briefly) and later Brad had another mutiny on his hands when his mate Michael Read abandoned ship. This time it was a little bit serious and by the time Michael was finally fetched back on deck there was not much incentive for *F Troop* to continue so the

boat retired. Fortunately, no harm was done other than the accumulation of maximum points for that heat but all of this came on top of spar problems which required surgery in the car park to rectify. But, in the best traditions of the Toad competition, Brad and the *F Troop* team put their misfortune behind them and soldiered on, winning two of the next four heats and demonstrating emphatically that conclusive consistency really does pay off. Thus does the Toad return to Queensland but I'm sure it will be back.

RL24 Championships 2008

Earlier this year, your Secretary, as directed by members at the AGM, pursued the notional arrangement of having our next National Championship hosted by Mannering Park Yacht Club in NSW. The Club has now graciously responded in the affirmative and has agreed to run our regatta starting with the Invitation Race on Sunday 30th December 2007 and concluding with the last heat (7th) on Friday 4th January 2008. A Presentation Night will be held on the Friday evening.

Mannering Park is located on the southern shores of Lake Macquarie north of Sydney and has successfully conducted three of our Championships in the past. It is a small, very friendly, family-oriented club with a great sailing spirit. As a sailing venue, the Lake is ideal for our boats with steady, consistent breezes and deep, usually flat, water. The Club has its own launching ramp but there are also others nearby.

A variety of accommodation options are available in the vicinity of the Club, the most popular being the **Monterey Caravan Park** which is located immediately next door to the Club reserve. **The phone No. is 1800 359 455** and as our regatta coincides with the main holiday season, you need to book sooner rather than later. If you ring, tell the owner, Michael, that you are a participant in the RL24 Nationals at MPYC and he will do all he can to help. In the past, the park has been able to provide on-site vans for hire as well as camping sites and caravan sites.

In due course, a Notice of Race will be distributed and further developments will be given in future Newsletters. In the meantime, should you have any queries, contact our Secretary Paul Corben on (03) 51 52 58 42.

REMEMBER THOSE DATES – SUNDAY 30TH DEC. 2007 TO FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY 2008

ThankstoJaneandPaulDavisJamesShannonandPaulCorbenwhoprovidedmaterialforthis newsletter.

RL24 NATIONALS JAN 2007

(C=DNC, S=DNS, O=OCS, F=DNF, R=RET, Q=DSQ, D=DND, Z=ZPG, U=DUT, Y=YPG, G=RDG, P=PROTEST, V=AVERAGE, #=No Data)

DIVISION : 1 Aggregate Scratch Scores To Race No 7 on 05-Jan-07 Ties NOT resolved! (Drops = 1)

Place	Sail No	From	Skipper	Agg Score	Race 7	Race 6	Race 5	Race 4	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1	450	WINGS	C RAINY	8.25	(5.00)	2.00	0.75	2.00	2.00	0.75	0.75
2	199	OHRA RUA	S WALSH	9.50	2.00	0.75	2.00	(5.00)	0.75	2.00	2.00
3	500	F TROOP	B TAYLOR	18.50	0.75	5.00	4.00	0.75	(10.00F)	3.00	5.00
4	126	SPUD GUN	B RYAN	21.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	(6.00)	3.00	5.00	3.00
5	454	PIPE DREAM	A CHAMBERS	25.00	6.00	4.00	(8.00)	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
6	427	LOWANNA VI	M SHANNON	37.00	(8.00)	6.00	7.00	4.00	6.00	7.00	7.00
7	415	RUNNING LATE	G GERMAINE	38.00	3.00	7.00	5.00	(9.00)	7.00	8.00	8.00
7	600	COSMIC SEDSO	P CORBEN	38.00	(9.00)	8.00	6.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
9	102	SASCHA	M REID	50.00	7.00	9.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	(9.00)

DIVISION : 2 Aggregate Scratch Scores To Race No 7 on 05-Jan-07 Ties NOT resolved! (Drops = 1)

Place	Sail No	From	Skipper	Agg Score	Race 7	Race 6	Race 5	Race 4	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1	159	WHATEVER	D DWYER	5.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	2.00	0.75	0.75	(2.00)
2	110	THIS WAY UP	I LANE	9.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.75	2.00	(2.00)	0.75
3	222	THINGA MAJIG	S LYMBERY	19.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	(4.00)	3.00	3.00
4	269	STREET CAR	P DAVIS	22.00	4.00	(5.00)	3.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
5	414	SCREAMIN BLUE MURDER	I COOK	29.00	5.00	4.00	5.00	(6.00)	5.00	5.00	5.00
6	47	SPIRAL NAVIGATOR	W HILL	37.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	7.00C	7.00C	(7.00F)

DIVISION : 3 Aggregate Scratch Scores To Race No 7 on 05-Jan-07 Ties NOT resolved! (Drops = 1)

Place	Sail No	From	Skipper	Agg Score	Race 7	Race 6	Race 5	Race 4	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1	231	SPLICE	A CASSAR	4.50	0.75	(2.00)	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
2	108	MISS TRESS	H HETHERINGTON	11.75	2.00	0.75	2.00	2.00	3.00F	2.00	(3.00F)

INVOICE

RL24 OWNERS ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA.

A 0045403P ABN 75 905 426 014

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE RL 24 OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA FOR THE 2007/2008 FINANCIAL YEAR ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERRED MEMBERSHIP STATUS BY TICKING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

FULL MEMBERSHIP\$25.00

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP\$12.00

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO THE RL 24 OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND RETURN IT WITH THIS INVOICE TO MR. TREVOR JONES, HON. TREASURER, RL24 OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc., P.O. Box 112 LOCH SPORT , 3851.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE NO.

BOAT NAME :

SAIL NUMBER

MK. 1, 2 OR 3?

DROP OR SWING KEEL?

IF YOU HAVE DISPOSED OF YOUR RL 24 COULD YOU PLEASE ADVISE THE ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS SO THAT AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION CAN BE FORWARDED.

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT OWNER BUT REQUIRE NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE ASSOCIATION, COULD YOU PLEASE ADVISE US BY RETURNING THIS INVOICE NOTED APPROPRIATELY.