



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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RL24 – It's YOUR kind of boat

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The Great Swing Keel Debate:

Following on from the discussions at the AGM, I have been forwarded two submissions for the newsletter and I would encourage any other members with an opinion to post / e-mail them in for publication. Later in the year if anyone wishes to put up a proposal for a change to the class rules, they can be published in the required time before voting at the next AGM.

Trevor Jones

1: The Constitution and it's aims

To promote the RL24 class of trailable yachts for both racing and cruising.

The President is responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Association in accordance with the constitution.

The question for the national committee is "how do we encourage people to dust off and sail their boats or to sell their stored boats" because the RL24 class is a finite class, if they don't turn up, in the long run we will die as a national class.

The question for the Association as put at the AGM 2004 as a question of interest "Not a formal proposal to change the class rules" is to remove all centre plate restrictions on the swing keel division. Les Browne stated that owners should have equal rights to develop their boats and that the handicap was set off times gained from a legal extra long swing keel boat and therefore the rating is detrimental to the standard swing keel performance while in open competition.

Two counter arguments were put:

One; If the swing keel boat owners want to race harder they can convert to a drop keel.

Two; To keep the cost down for people who initially come to the class.

If the restriction is meant to encourage cruising boats to participate as cruising boats then clearly it has failed, even the least experienced and poorly prepared boats attempted to compete as best they could and it appeared that they enjoyed themselves. It should also be conceded that being on the race course and racing is the best way to improve your skills. If you look at the 2004 Nationals, the swing keelers produced just as much close and serious racing as the drop keelers.

Keep in mind there is a legal swing keel boat with an extra long swing keel in it.

Hypothetically what would happen if this boat attended the National Titles and cleaned up over a period of years and it was conceded that the keel is an advantage, it would be a nonsense not to allow other swing keel boats to compete on an even basis if they so desired.

The question now is

Is it good or bad for the class to be restricting development of the swing keel?

What is the reason for the restriction?

When you consider the two points of view:

One; If you want to race harder you can convert a swing keeler to a drop keeler. Why? Why shouldn't a swing keel owner have the same rights as a drop keel owner?

Two; Is to keep the cost down when someone initially comes into the class. If one boat lengthens their keel we will all have to do it. Why? Simon Walsh has developed a very fast

boat but his success is not only about the boat, he is an excellent sailor as well and there has not been a rush to copy Ohau-rua. The class allows you to think and develop as an individual. I think it would be cheaper to extend a swing keel and trunk than to remove the trunk and build a new keel and plate case.

The issue of the Yachting Victoria handicap being set by the longer swing keel boat could be overcome by submitting new figures off standard swing keel boats but this does not overcome the problem of the existing legal longer keeled boat.

If the restriction remains and a person comes into the class via a swing keel boat and that person develops a keen desire to race at the highest level, they are forced by the retention of this restriction to do major surgery to their boat which rebuts the argument of keeping them inexpensive to race for that person.

All classes of sailing boats are required to take a good hard look at themselves every now and then, our longevity depends on it.

I personally would like to see the owners of the RL24s think 10 years ahead and then come up with a no holds barred list of suggestions of gradual change if any to get us there.

Some Ideas:

Thinking of the comfort of the crew, wider side decks to overcome gunwale bum. This would also help with arthritic joints, eg. Fibreglass add-ons from moulds approved by the Association.

The introduction of a genoa to improve light weather performance.

The introduction of a larger spinnaker to improve light weather performance.

Keep in mind that there are no more RL24s to be built and it is imperative that we find a way to coax them out of retirement.

Jeff Germaine.

2.

in NSW many RL 24 centre board boxes were modified from the original as built versions prior to 1992. The mods varied from taking the keel raising wire out of the water flow, to fitting Mark 2 keels to Mark 1's (the height of the centre board box had to be raised about a 100 mm). You cannot fit a swing keel filler or slopper stopper or lock down device without modifying the centre board box from the '**original as built**' version!

Appendix 3 in the 1992 version of the RL24 Class rules states the following:

AT RL24 CLASS REGATTAS

I. Swing keel division shall be restricted to yachts whose centre cases are as originally constructed prior to 1992 and that no device be fitted to close the centre case slot.

II. Keels shall not be lifted beyond a point which leaves exposed **600 mm** vertical depth of keel, and that a locking device be fitted to prevent raising beyond this point.

When the laminar flow drop keels started appearing in RL 24s in early eighties, we all raced in the NSW Trailer Yacht Series with the same NSW CBH. The RL 24 rating was lifted I think from .710 to .725 to cover the improved performance of the drop keels. I was against the introduction of the drop keel in RL 24's and against the fitting the new drop keels to existing boats in our local RL fleet. I was forced to change and improve my swing keel system to keep up with drop keel boats. I bought a discarded second hand 140 kg mark 2 swing keel from Rob Leg Yachts and after much fairing and shaping fitted it to my mark 1. I had to lift the height of my original centre board box to fit the new keel and filler/lockdown. We raced her 3 up (instead of 4) and we found her faster to windward than the drop keels in winds over 15 knots, mind you, I think our lower freeboard had something to do with it.

In NSW the swing keel RL 24 received a lift up when the drop keelers were eventually given a harder CBH handicap while swing keelers stayed on .725. We of course started beating them in corrected time and that was when the drop keelers started complaining about our slopperstoppers/fillers or lockdown devices. I did have to remind them that the low and sleek mark 1 and 2 swing keel RL 24's were here first and that masts,sail shapes, keels and rudders were open to development under the current rules.

I regret not making it to the AGM this time and would like the opportunity to submit possible changes to the class rules next year.

Alastair Russell

I have written a proposal for the Association to become incorporated. The reason for doing this is mainly to avoid paying so much tax on any interest we earn and it should also remove any legal liability from individual members. Another side benefit will be that it is much cheaper to register a website which we are currently investigating. To speed things along I have included the proposal and a voting slip. Please read and sign the return slip to register your vote.

Don't forget the Victorian Trailable Yacht Championships on 14th. 15th. February at Geelong. The Victorian RL24 Championships will be incorporated in this event.

I have included the results of the Nationals held at Loch Sport for those who don't have access to the internet. Negotiations are going on with the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club for the next Nationals and I hope to make an announcement very soon.

Trevor Jones

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 1		Scratch Results					Heat No. 2	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.	
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	0.7600	81.87	62.22	7.00	7	
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	0.7600	87.08	66.18	9.00	9	
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	0.7600	75.23	57.18	2.00	2	
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	0.7600	82.37	62.60	8.00	8	
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	0.7600	77.22	58.68	3.00	3	
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	0.7600	75.02	57.01	0.75	1	
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	0.7600	79.17	60.17	4.00	4	
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	0.7600	80.12	60.89	5.00	5	
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	0.7600	80.93	61.51	6.00	6	

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 2		Scratch Results					Heat No. 2	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.	
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	0.7250	96.20	69.75	5.00	5	
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	0.7250	79.93	57.95	0.75	1	
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	0.7250	98.85	71.67	7.00	7	
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	0.7250	81.50	59.09	2.00	2	
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	0.7250	85.12	61.71	3.00	3	
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	0.7250	88.50	64.16	4.00	4	
414	RL24SK	I Cook	0.7250	98.12	71.13	6.00	6	

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 1		Scratch Results					Heat No. 1	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.	
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	0.7600	124.70	94.77	8.00	8	
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	0.7600	129.43	98.37	9.00	9	
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	0.7600	111.07	84.41	0.75	1	
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	0.7600	122.90	93.40	6.00	6	
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	0.7600	113.08	85.94	4.00	4	
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	0.7600	112.97	85.85	3.00	3	
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	0.7600	112.63	85.60	2.00	2	
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	0.7600	117.92	89.62	5.00	5	
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	0.7600	123.58	93.92	7.00	7	

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 2		Scratch Results					Heat No. 1	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.	
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	0.7250	163.92	118.84	7.00	7	
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	0.7250	126.85	91.97	2.00	2	
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	0.7250	163.33	118.42	6.00	6	
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	0.7250	120.78	87.57	0.75	1	
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	0.7250	131.50	95.34	3.00	3	
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	0.7250	137.10	99.40	4.00	4	
414	RL24SK	I Cook	0.7250	146.03	105.87	5.00	5	

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Division 2 Scratch Results Heat No. 5

Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	0.7250	DNS		8.00	
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	0.7250	80.28	58.21	2.00	2
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	0.7250	99.75	72.32	6.00	6
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	0.7250	81.83	59.33	3.00	3
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	0.7250	79.02	57.29	0.75	1
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	0.7250	83.17	60.30	4.00	4
414	RL24SK	I Cook	0.7250	97.03	70.35	5.00	5

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Division 1 Scratch Results Heat No. 4

Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	0.7600	73.30	55.71	3.00	3
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	0.7600	79.35	60.31	9.00	9
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	0.7600	70.73	53.76	0.75	1
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	0.7600	76.43	58.09	8.00	8
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	0.7600	74.23	56.42	6.00	6
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	0.7600	70.95	53.92	2.00	2
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	0.7600	75.98	57.75	7.00	7
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	0.7600	74.17	56.37	5.00	5
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	0.7600	74.05	56.28	4.00	4

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 2 Scratch Results Heat No. 4

Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	0.7250	DNS		8.00	
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	0.7250	77.30	56.04	3.00	3
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	0.7250	95.95	69.56	6.00	6
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	0.7250	77.18	55.96	2.00	2
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	0.7250	76.42	55.40	0.75	1
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	0.7250	77.30	56.04	3.00	3
414	RL24SK	I Cook	0.7250	86.63	62.81	5.00	5

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 1 Scratch Results Heat No. 3

Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	0.7600	78.82	59.90	5.00	5
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	0.7600	81.32	61.80	9.00	9
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	0.7600	73.12	55.57	2.00	2
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	0.7600	79.50	60.42	6.00	6
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	0.7600	78.07	59.33	4.00	4
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	0.7600	72.90	55.40	0.75	1
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	0.7600	76.55	58.18	3.00	3
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	0.7600	81.00	61.56	8.00	8
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	0.7600	80.20	60.95	7.00	7

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 2 Scratch Results Heat No. 3

Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	0.7250	88.98	64.51	5.00	5
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	0.7250	77.57	56.24	2.00	2
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	0.7250	93.62	67.87	7.00	7
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	0.7250	77.00	55.83	0.75	1
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	0.7250	81.87	59.35	3.00	3
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	0.7250	82.15	59.56	4.00	4
414	RL24SK	I Cook	0.7250	90.13	65.35	6.00	6

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 1		Progressive Results						Scratch	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	2	3	4	5	6	Points	Pos.
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	2	2	1	1	4	6.25	1
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	1	1	2	3	1	7.25	2
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	3	4	6	2	2	15.00	3
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	4	3	7	5	3	17.00	4
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	7	5	3	4	5	24.00	5
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	5	8	5	7	7	29.00	6
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	6	7	4	6	8	30.00	7
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	8	6	8	9	6	34.00	8
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	9	9	9	8	DNF	44.00	9

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 2		Progressive Results						Scratch	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	2	3	4	5	6	Points	Pos.
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	2	1	2	3	1	6.25	1
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	3	3	1	1	2	9.50	2
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	1	2	3	2	3	9.75	3
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	4	4	3	4	4	19.00	4
414	RL24SK	I Cook	6	6	5	5	5	26.00	5
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	5	5	DNS	DNS	6	31.00	6
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	7	7	6	6	7	32.00	7

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 1		Scratch Results						Heat No. 6	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.		
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	0.7600	114.37	86.92	5.00	5		
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	0.7600	DNF		10.00			
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	0.7600	113.43	86.21	4.00	4		
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	0.7600	116.82	88.78	6.00	6		
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	0.7600	113.10	85.96	2.00	2		
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	0.7600	112.85	85.77	0.75	1		
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	0.7600	113.37	86.16	3.00	3		
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	0.7600	117.07	88.97	7.00	7		
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	0.7600	119.90	91.12	8.00	8		

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Division 2		Scratch Results						Heat No. 6	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.		
47	RL24SK	W.Hill	0.7250	131.00	94.96	6.00	6		
104	RL24SK	D.Dyer	0.7250	118.07	85.60	3.00	3		
108	RL24SK	H.Hetherington	0.7250	132.00	95.70	7.00	7		
110	RL24SK	I.Lane	0.7250	115.20	83.52	0.75	1		
126	RL24SK	B.Ryan	0.7250	116.05	84.14	2.00	2		
269	RL24SK	P.Davis	0.7250	120.23	87.17	4.00	4		
414	RL24SK	I Cook	0.7250	130.00	94.25	5.00	5		

RL24 Nationals 2004 - Loch Sport Boat Club Inc

Division 1		Scratch Results						Heat No. 5	
Sail No.	Class	Skipper	Yard	E.Time	C.Time	Points	Pos.		
102	RL24DK	M.Reid	0.7600	75.57	57.43	4.00	4		
150	RL24DK	J Shannon	0.7600	80.78	61.40	8.00	8		
199	RL24DK	S. Walsh	0.7600	73.22	55.64	0.75	1		
231	RL24DK	K.Griffiths	0.7600	86.77	65.94	9.00	9		
427	RL24DK	M.Shannon	0.7600	74.57	56.67	2.00	2		
450	RL24DK	C.Rainey	0.7600	74.58	56.68	3.00	3		
555	RL24DK	L.Graham	0.7600	77.37	58.80	5.00	5		
600	RL24DK	P.Corben	0.7600	80.72	61.34	7.00	7		
RL307	RL24DK	J Germaine	0.7600	80.45	61.14	6.00	6		