



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2005

RL24 – It's YOUR kind of boat

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A0045403P ABN: 75 905 426 014

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NEWSLETTER

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LIFE MEMBERS

Geoff. and Arch. Olney.
Rob. Legg.
Ross Corben.

Greetings

In my haste to get the last Newsletter into the hands of Australia Post I omitted to make mention of a couple of significant issues in the life of the Association which occurred at the 2005 Presentation Night following the last Nationals at GLYC. The most notable of these was the presentation of the ***Bruce Castles Participation Award*** to Michael Shannon.

Mick has been a stalwart of the Association since he joined it with *Lowanna 3* in 1974 and over the intervening period has been an outstanding ambassador for the Class and the sport of sailing. During the heyday of trailable yacht racing, Mick and his kids raced at venues all over Victoria, frequently beating hot fleets both off the stick and on handicap. I once heard the unbelieving and somewhat disillusioned skipper of a Thompson 8 derogatorily refer to the crew on *Lowanna 6* as “that bunch from St. Trinians” but while such remarks might have riled his children, Mick took enormous pleasure in knocking off the “gorillas” with his ultra lightweight but very talented and enormously enthusiastic crew. Over the years, this combination of sailing talent won the RL24 National Championship at Mannering Park in 1991 and again at Southport in 1996. For Michael, sailing is essentially a family-based activity and by encouraging his children to sail with him in the full heat of competition, he has not only given them a wonderful range of challenges and experiences to complement the other parts of their lives but has quietly set an example for other sailing and non-sailing parents to follow.

In the context of the development of the RL24 as a racing machine, Mick stands alongside Peter Yeomans, the late Bruce Castles and Simon Walsh as a major innovator in the Class. Long before Peter gave us the skiff rig, Mick had worked up a more efficient swing keel and it was Mick who talked with Rob. and subsequently commissioned the first lightweight “exotic” hull, a move which galvanized a number of others into doing the same thing. Among many other innovations, he was the first to step his mast on the keel, the first to set up a spinnaker launching tube that exits forward of the forestay and the first to convert a Mk4 RL24 hull into a Mk1! Sometimes, things didn't work out the way he expected and in the case of a triangulated mast section he once set up, it didn't work out at all – it lasted less than 10 minutes before an almighty bang saw it crash to the deck. But the odd failure has never daunted Mick and has never quelled his enthusiasm and he remains a remarkable ornament to the sport and a wonderful advocate of the RL24 Association. His award is thoroughly deserved.

The other matter to be reported is that a totally surprised and outfoxed but very grateful Ross Corben – he who thought he had his finger on every RL24 pulse - was awarded Life Membership of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia. I can now tell you that he very nearly declined on the Oscar Wildean principle that any organization which would confer Life Membership on someone like Ross Corben is a very questionable outfit.

RL24 National Championships 2005/2006

The Notice of Race for the next Nationals is attached. This year we are hoping to minimize the problem of quirky weather, should it occur, by having a sailing program which permits a maximum of flexibility. There is no doubt that the 2005 series was diminished somewhat by the fact that we lost 2 heats due to uncooperative weather and the Sailing Committee is keen to avoid a repeat of that situation. The dates to remember are *Tuesday 27th December 2005 to Saturday 31st December 2005.*

RL24 Victorian State Championships 2005.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, our State Titles are being hosted by the Colac YC on the weekend of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December next as part of its Annual Regatta. We've had some feedback that some members may not have received their Notice of Race for this event in the last Newsletter (for which I apologise - must have been the Auldstone Muscat) so another is enclosed. This event represents a great opportunity to tune up for the Nationals but just as importantly, it is a chance to experience the atmosphere of a really switched on community-based yacht club. Don't miss it.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia will be held on Thursday, 29th December 2005 at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club commencing at 5.30pm sharp. Please note that any proposed motion which would alter the Association's Constitution or Class Rules must be circulated to members 30 days before the AGM. Therefore, such motions, if any, need to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by 15th November 2005. If possible, all other motions should be advised to the Hon. Sec. prior to the day of the meeting to facilitate the preparation of an agenda. This does not preclude the raising of motions at the time of the meeting. Members could perhaps also begin to give consideration now to the matter of the location of the next National series. While we've enjoyed the hospitality of the Gippsland Lakes area for the last 4 or 5 years and it's a great place to sail, may be it's time for a change but where to? The question is an important one and needs a good airing – all suggestions will be welcome.

Want a Great Read?

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to check out Keith Merkley's RL website and read the 10 episodes of the wonderful autobiographical story of that extraordinary genius, Rob Legg. Rob writes in the same style as he designs boats, complex and diverse concepts rendered simple and elegant by smoothly polished lines simultaneously gentle and powerful. His early chapters are masterpieces in nostalgia although the exquisite pleasure of recalling those blissful post war years is tempered by the inevitable questions about what happened to them and how it is that we have lost the spirit of joy which pervaded them. Later chapters give a more technical orientation to the story and we learn

A Note from the President

Finding news to put in an association newsletter is often difficult to do.

Alastair Russell keeps me on my toes if it concerns any association matters, with Y.A. re stability factor. (runge site). James Shannon our representative for trailables in Y.V. has kept the association in the highlight with regard to the stability factor.

Road Tripping

Driving up for a week away with my wife we called into Eden to have a look at "Radical Lady" the boat looking a bit worse for wear, as it has been left out in open. Fairly radical!!!, mast went up and down 3 feet on hydraulic ram. Keel could be slid back and forward and the mast raked. All this achieved by hand pumped hydraulics. No doubt a lot of dollars spent on this boat with having a Kevlar cabin top that they built themselves.

From the Archives

Looking back at old magazines "Bulletin" I.Y.C. report on 1992 trailable yacht championships 16th Feb. 1992, at Westport Marina. Overall place getters, 2nd Simon Walsh, "Ohau-Rua". Division "B" Geoff McDonald "Liason". Top team winner RL24 association, Mick Shannon "Lowana VI", Geoff McDonald "Liason", Simon Walsh "Ohau-Rua".

From Australian Sailing 1996

The Australian championship for both drop keel and swing keel divisions of the RL24 Class was hosted by Southport YC from its Holleywell sailing annex on the Broadwater. Good organization, race management, sea breezes and close racing made for an excellent regatta. Mick Shannon and his family crew of Fred, Charlie, James and Jenny aboard "Lowana VI" won the drop-keel division with extremely consistent placings. "Slippery When Wet", "Ohau-Rau" and "Pipe Dream" all won heats, but could not produce the consistency required to win the regatta. After sorting out on early crewing problem, Alex Kostin in "Minkie" won the swing keel division with seven consistent placings.

The 5-15 knot south-east to north-east breezes provided great sailing. However, the depth of water caused some concern with two boats splitting their centrecases after touching the bottom. Ross Corben was evacuated after his boat ran aground during one heat and spent time in hospital receiving stitches and treatment for concussion. Sound boat handling and tactics overshadowed the need for superior boatspeed on the tight Southport course. Well prepared boats and crews were rewarded in both divisions.

Bernie Ryan. Hon. President of the RL 24 Owners Ass. of Australia.

about some of the difficulties a designer faces before his concept becomes a reality. But beyond this and unintended by the author, we get an insight into just how clever this humble, gentle man really is. Clever *and* persistent. Clever in his ability to take a mental concept of great complexity, draw it and then build it. Persistent in his capacity to overcome all the impediments, technical, bureaucratic, financial and personal, which littered his path. It is an inspirational story and those of us who have the good fortune to have our journey shared at some point by Rob are indeed privileged. Finally, I should mention Rob's amazing collection of reference material. His archive of press cuttings, photographs and other material is clearly the result of years of diligent work and is, of itself, a remarkable testament to the man.

And finally.....

having recently had the opportunity to reflect again on the meaning of the non-complementary vesticular orbits of Venus, Mars and the impact on motor cycles, here are a few things I've discovered about life in general.

It's easier to get older than wiser.

If all is not lost, where is it?

It's not hard to meet expenses – they're everywhere.

Some days you're the dog – some days you're the hydrant.

My wild oats have turned into sliced bananas and All Bran.

Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.

I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.

These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the Hereafter – I come over to the shed to get something and wonder what I'm here after.

Ross Corben
Knoxfield 3180
October 2005.

GIPPSLAND LAKES YACHT CLUB Inc.
NOTICE OF RACE --
RL24 CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2005/2006

Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club Inc. (GLYC) invites entries for the 2005/2006 RL24 Championships to be sailed on the Gippsland Lakes adjacent to Paynesville from December 27th to Dec.31st, 2005 according to the program herein.

1. ORGANISING AUTHORITY.

The Organising Authority is Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club Inc. on behalf of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia.

2. RULES.

All races will be governed by the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing for 2005-2008 (RRS) including amendments as made from time to time by ISAF; by the prescriptions and Special Regulations of the Australian Yachting Federation (AYF); by this Notice of Race; by the rules of the RL24 Owners Association as supplied to the Race Committee prior to the Regatta; (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions); and by the Sailing Instructions that will be issued for this Regatta.

3. REGATTA PROGRAM.

The Regatta Program is as follows:

Tuesday 27th Dec. 2005.	From 9.00am. 12 noon. 1355hrs. 1730hrs.	Registration Information Briefing. Invitation Races. (3 short course races for all Divisions) Welcoming barbeque (at the GLYC)
Wednesday 28 th Dec. 2005		Heats 1 and 2.
Thursday 29 th Dec. 2005.		Heats 3 and 4.
Friday 30 th Dec. 2005.		Heats 5 and 6.
Saturday 31 st Dec. 2005.		Heat 7
Saturday 31 st Dec. 2005		Presentation Dinner

Starting Times of each days' Heats will be displayed on the Regatta Notice Board by 1700 hours on the preceding day after consultation with the Meteorological Office at the RAAF Base, East Sale. Additional methods of communicating Start Time information with each participating skipper may be employed. All Divisions will start simultaneously.

Resails

Resails of abandoned or cancelled Heats will be arranged at the discretion of the Race Committee. Such Heats may be re-scheduled as twilight events or held on another day.

4. ADVERTISING.

The Series is classified as Category A in accordance with ISAF Regulation 20. See RRS Appendix J 1.2 (2)

5. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY.

The Regatta is open to all RL24s whose owners are financial members of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia. Eligible boats shall enter for the Swing Keel, Drop Keel or Cruising Division using the attached Entry Form, which shall be lodged with the Hon. Secretary of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia, 2 Ross St. Bairnsdale 3875 by Friday 16th December, 2005, accompanied by the Entry Fee.

Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee.

6. ENTRY FEES.

The Entry Fee for the Regatta will be \$110.00 per boat.

7. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.

The Sailing Instructions applicable to races in this series will be available from the Regatta Office after 0900 on Tuesday, 27th December, 2005.

8. COURSES.

Courses for Drop and Swing Keel Divisions will be triangular Olympic courses and will be fully detailed in the Sailing Instructions. The Cruising Division will sail the same course as the other two Divisions but will omit the last "triangle".

9. SCORING.

- 9.1 The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A.4.1 will apply except that first place in each race will score 0.75 point. Boats shall discard their worst finish place unless only 5 Heats are sailed in which event, all races will count.
- 9.2 Five races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

10. ALTERNATIVE PENALTY

RRS 44.1 and 44.2 shall apply except that the penalty shall be 360 degrees.

11. PRIZES.

Prizes for the RL24 Championship will be awarded to:

- (1) Drop Keel Champion – best scoring RL24 Drop-keel.
- (2) Swing Keel Champion – best scoring RL24 Swing-keel.
- (3) Cruising Division Champion – best scoring RL24 in Cruising mode. (No spinnaker etc.)
- (4) Other prizes may be awarded as determined by the RL24 Owners Association.

12. SAFETY.

12.1 Category

The safety category applicable this series is YA Special Regulations Section 2.01.7 Category 6.

In addition the following will apply:

3.24.3 (b) Outboard motors shall be mounted in the normal operating position at all times, but may be retracted whilst sailing.

3.24.6 A minimum of 9 litres of fuel must be carried at the start of each race.

PFDs shall be worn by all crew members at all times whilst afloat during the Regatta.

12.2 Safety Equipment Declarations

Boats shall have submitted to GLYC a valid Safety Equipment Declaration (SED).

13. MEASUREMENT.

The Race Committee reserves the right to inspect, measure and check the hull, spars, sails and safety equipment of any yacht at any time before or after any heat during the series. Competing yachts should have a current measurement certificate.

14. INSURANCE.

All competing yachts shall have public liability insurance for the amount of not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000). Such insurance should cover all risks arising while the competitor is participating in any way in the Championships, whether ashore or afloat. The Owner/competitor shall provide a copy of the insurance certificate with the Entry Form.

15. RADIO COMMUNICATION

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

16. DISCLAIMER

Competitors participate in the Regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 2005 – 2008 Part 1 Rule 4 “Decision to Race.” Neither the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club or the RL24 Owners Association of Australia Inc. will accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the Regatta.

17. FUTURE INFORMATION.

Contact the Hon. Secretary, RL24 Owners Association of Australia (Paul Corben),
2 Ross Street, BAIRNSDALE, 3875. Phone (03) 5152 5842 (A.H.), mobile 0439 032 852.

President, Bernie Ryan. Phone (03) 5156 7606, mobile 0418 521 708. Email ryan@dcsi.net.au

Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club: glyc@hotkey.net.au

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

A number of social activities are being planned. Details will be advised in due course.

The GLYC clubhouse will be open after each day's racing and all competitors are invited to come along and enjoy the facilities.

INVOICE

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE RL 24 OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA FOR THE 2005/2006 FINANCIAL YEAR ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.

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

FULL MEMBERSHIP\$24.00

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, 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.



COLAC YACHT CLUB

A 000 6897 1

PO BOX 308, COLAC 3250

ANNUAL REGATTA

2nd, 3rd & 4th DECEMBER 2005

HELD ON LAKE COLAC

1 RULES

All races will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2005-2008 ("RRS"), the prescriptions and special regulations of the AYF, the appropriate Class Rules (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions, the by-laws of the Colac Yacht Club and by the Sailing Instructions)

2 ELIGIBILITY

The Regatta is open to off the beach and trailerable boats. Public Liability Insurance required.

3 ENTRY

Entries must be lodged on the form provided from 9-00am each day at the entry table in the Clubhouse.

Entry fees are as follows	<u>SENIOR</u>	\$40 for the series (single handed) \$50 for the series (crewed boat) \$15 per race
	<u>JUNIOR</u>	\$20 for the series \$8 per race

4 SCHEDULE	-INVITATION	6-30pm Friday December 2
	-HEAT 1	11-00am Saturday December 3
	-HEAT 2	2-00pm Saturday December 3
	-HEAT 3	10-00am Sunday December 4
	-HEAT 4	1-30pm Sunday December 4

5 SCORING

The Low Point Scoring System, Appendix A.2 will apply. If 4 races are held, one race will be dropped. All races will count if 3 or less races are held. The invitation will not count towards the series.

6. ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

RRS 44 will apply, except the penalty will be 360 degrees

7. PRIZES

Prizes may be awarded to 1st and 2nd places on scratch aggregate for each Division or class with 5 or more entries. Handicap results will also be awarded. Scratch placegetters will be ineligible for handicap awards.

Presentations will be made at the Clubhouse after the completion of the last race.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION

Licensed bar and family meals will be available on the Saturday evening. Lunch will be available both days.

9. FURTHER ENQUIRIES

Chris Parker Home 52 312334
 Work 52 315555

Daryl Langdon Home 52 338216
 Mobile 0419 881802