



Commodore's Christmas Communication

Greetings all,

The Committee wishes to pass on greetings and good wishes for this Christmas season and the New Year, and bring you up to date with some of the things happening. Please also keep an eye on the website (www.qlyc.org.au) for updates to the calendar, racing program and social activities.

So far, we have been much less affected by bad weather than last year, for which we are profoundly grateful. The Ray Maki series has just finished, and was won by Imagine (13 points), followed by Valentine (18 points) and Tiercel third (19 points).

The “Off the Beach” day however was not so lucky with weather and we hope for better luck for the balance of the summer.

The adoption of a new approach to Club “livery”, with a new logo and encouragement to put this on clothing of your choice, has been successful, and the logo is popular enough for us to use it more widely.



There have been some good social occasions including a footy grand final gathering, getting the pool table into action, barbecues at the clubhouse and a joint barbecue at QCYC. Also, three vessels enjoyed a casual cruise to anchor off South Channel Fort, on a Saturday when some of our fleet were busy taking on the competition from QCYC in their Goorangai trophy.

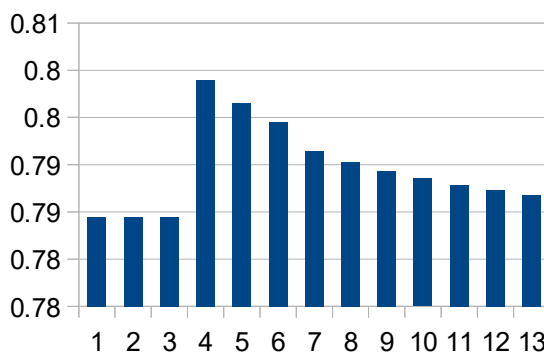
The sailing committee has been busy with a number of issues affecting racing.

These include consideration of quite severe shoaling of waters around the Caisson (Chinaman's Hat) and, more significantly for our courses, around the Wedge, which is becoming un-navigable for the bigger boats. Also the highly diverse fleet, coupled with strong tidal streams, poses challenges such as advantages for either bigger or shallower vessels, according to weather and tides. Responses to these issues include a revision of our standard courses including position of the starting line. The 'traditional' start at Grass Beds with the next mark being a fixed navigational pile poses problems when wind is off the land and we will grapple with the question of whether this can be improved without undue extra work for the heroes who man Swan.

A second subject for extended discussion is the scoring system for series and aggregate trophies. Using the "Blue Book" system for scoring regattas is not a brilliant fit for our culture of encouraging as many possible boats to sail in as many races as possible, across all series and trophy races. So the sailing committee is examining alternatives.

The handicapping system is bringing many close races, despite the diversity of our fleet. As mentioned before, our system rewards improvement over past performance rather than comparing boats and skippers.

For anyone interested, the handicapping system as now used gives almost the same outcomes as the old one, but avoids the anomaly of handicaps sometimes getting higher even after a 'poor' result. This theoretical example shows how in a series of races with every vessel performing exactly to their handicap except one boat having one excellent result (race 3), her increased handicap returns gradually towards the normal. So like old soldiers, the results never die, they just fade away.



Other committee and subcommittee work includes progressing the difficult negotiations over our lease, streamlining

financial processes, review of our Rules and Purposes, examining issues of website, and digital management of Club processes. Apologies for any downsides of these “works in progress”.

Unfortunately, health issues have affected a number of key members of the Club and I am sure all of us wish all the very best to those currently affected, particularly over the Christmas period.

We regret but understand the fact that Joanne is unable to continue as Secretary owing to the combination of full time work and this task being too much,



At the personal level, I have learned a bit from a week on the tall ship Tenacious and will probably be trying to bore members with these experiences.

For anyone who has not caught up with the AGM, the minutes are about to be posted on our website.

Please start to think about January 20th when the Lady Skipper's trophy will be part of the “Crew on the Helm” race. So you can race without a “Lady” skipper but are encouraged to have a female person on the helm. This race does not count towards the aggregate trophy so competitive skippers should not be shy of joining in and giving the helm to a crew member. Regardless of gender, any training necessary in advance is encouraged.

Happy Christmas and be careful out there.

