





Life's a reach and then you jibe!

Jan/Feb/Mar 2004



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Welcome

In this first issue of the new look E-Newsletter we feature reports from the Hobie National Titles held at Christmas in Brisbane. Thanks to Andrew Nelson (Hobie 18s) and Sam Miller (Hobie 16s). Samhas also penned us a story about the Australia Day Regatta and the very successful Broken Bay Beware the Bullets Regatta - just click on the appropriate links for these entertaining stories.

Please excuse any errors and omissions while I get this new format for the newsletter up and running. Any suggestions will be appreciated.

Good luck to all sailors competing in their National and State titles— we'll all look forward to some entertaining stories and more pictures in the next Main Sheet.

Robyn McCormick Click Here to send an email

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Start Boat Snippet from Kyle:

As regular sailors would be aware the new rescue boat has been well received by all who have had the pleasure of performing boat duty. It is fair to say that all the objectives set for the new boat have been met and we can look forward to many years of safe sailing and efficient race organisation. The extra room is fantastic and the stability when setting and collecting rounding marks is great.

As for fund raising we have already saved over \$18,000 towards the repayment of the loan from the Commodore. This amount will be added to when the funds are distributed from the proceeds of the Raffle.

Thanks again to all the members who have assisted with this project.





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Commodore's Report

The PBSC has come a long way in the past few years, primarily with the arrival of the Clubhouse and, latterly, the rescue boat. Our infrastructure for sailing is improving gradually, for example with the upgrade of the rounding marks and the renewal of our racing flags.

What is lagging behind now is the sailing activities we offer, and the way we present them. Who is leading the point score and the Club Championship?

It is time to introduce other types of sailing into the Club activities on a regular basis. In addition to the point score and Club Championship, some of the possibilities to consider are:

- · Sprint series
- · Marathons
- · Team sailing events
- · Drag races, against the clock and each other over a set course
- · Match racing series to give a Club Match Racing Champion
- · Training and skills improvement days

At the January monthly meeting some further discussion ensued, and the following additional ideas were generated:

- · Each month a different sailing activity be held
- · A sailing rally, similar to a car rally, around Pittwater
- · A Three Peaks type of event
- · A crews race

There must be other formats that can be exciting fun!! I invite the members to start thinking and come upwith some more suggestions.

Variety of sailing is the key here. Every now and then we must break out of the mould of hotdog and triangle in flat water.

All of this requires work, and people must be nominated to do it. Any ideas??? Volunteers??? This will take time to develop, so we should start work now.

Commodore John

John Goldsmith, Commodore







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2004 BOAT ROSTER

REMEMBER WHEN YOU ARE ON BOAT DUTY:

- 1. Pick up keys.
- 2. Put in bungs!!!! Before you reverse onto the beach.
- 4. Check oil level in motor.
- 5. Back trailer to just inside gate, flush out motor and thoroughly wash down boat.
- 6. Remove bungs, ensure trailer is back far enough not to hit roller door.
- 7. When on boat duty Results sheets must include the date and names

DATEON DUTY

January

03 New Year Break

10 New Year Break

17 John & Robin McCormick / G. Watson

24 S. Wood & Darien / Jan Jensen

31 D. Lawrence & S. Tebbut / Russell Sheppard

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February

07 Chris & S. Crook / Andrew Nelson 14 Michael & Peter Salter / Glenn Brown 21-23 NSW Hobie Cat State Titles (No Sailing) 28 OPS, M. Nelson / Mark Uren

March

06 Polar Bare Regarra/Long Jetty No sailing 13 D. Fisher, T. Gowen /John Goldsmith 20 F. Costanz, Crew / D. Griffiths, J. Hamill 27 K. Ardern, M.Ardern / John Forbes

April

03 K. Moffett, Crew / Tony Hodson 10 C. de Veyrac, Lyn / Mark Jonson 17 Kyle & Peter Amadio / Jan Jensen 24 M. Warren, S. Miller / Graham Allen

Emergency List D. Bonallo, C. Raymond

- N. Hextall
- B. Zanesco
- B. Forbes
- R. Wood
- K. Corlett Family

PLEASE REMEMBER ITS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT IF YOU ARE UNAVAILABLE

DONT LEAVE IT UNTIL FRIDAY NIGHT – Upu Kila 9401 7292/0412047501 IF ALL ELSE FAILS

REMEMBER HOW PISSED OFF YOU GET WHEN YOUR READY TO RACE AND THE START BOAT DOESN'T TURN UP PLEASE WASH OUT MOTOR AND THE BOAT INSIDE AND OUT, CLEAN OUT THE RUBBISH BEFORE YOU RUSH UP TO THE PARK TO HAVE YOUR FREE BEER.

Note

Make sure you write your name and the date on the Race Scoring Sheet, and also use the Point Scoring Abbreviations. It will make things easy for me when I enter the race results in the program.

Boat duty - If the race secretary realises the mark or the start line needs to be repositioned, duty officers should act without any objection. It was also agreed at the committee meeting that the race course area to be discussed on the day with the race officer or committee members present.

Race results will be posted on noticeboard in Boat compound.







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Nautical Quiz by Jan Jensen

Answers to last quiz.

Tabernacle. A socket or double post for a hinged mast that can be lowered when passing under bridges.

Holystone. Soft sandstone used for scrubbing wooden decks used with sand and salt water, in kneeling position, meduim size stones called bibles, and smaller ones prayer books.

Nautical Fanny. A cylindrical mess tin holding about a gallon of water.

New Quiz.

What is a gopher.

Where is a fake on board ship.

What is this numonic used for in chart work! TVMDC' (Timid Virgins Make Dull Compnions.)

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	17	Point Score	1,2,3	
	24	Australia Day (To be advised)	4,5,6	
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	31	Point Score & Club Champs	7,8,9	10,11,12
	February			
	07	Point Score	10,11,12	
	14	Point Score	13,14,15	

		-		
Summer Races		Pointscore	Club Champ	Possible Regattas
		Heat #	Heat #	
January				
03	New Year			
	Break			
10	New Year			
	Break			
17	Point Score	1,2,3		
24	Australia Day (To be advised)	4,5,6		
31	Point Score & Club Champ	s 7,8,9	10,11,12	
February				
07	Point Score	10,11,12	,	
14	Point Score	13,14,15		ACT & SZ
	1			Tiles-Eden
21- 23	NSW State	No		NSW State
	Titles	sailing		Titles
28	Point Score & Club Champs	16,17,18	13,14,15	
March				
06	Point Score	19,20,21		
13	Point Score	22,23,24		Vic. State Titles
20	Point Score	25,26,27		
27	Point Score&	28,29,30	16,17,18	
	Club Champs			
April				
03	Point Score	31,32,33		
10	Point Score	34,35,36		
17	Point Score	37,38,39		QLD State Titles, Curumbin
24	Point Score& Club Champs	40,41,42	19,20,21	
	A Comment			

End of club races but non- official sailing continues!!!!

Club AGM & Presentation Night earlier this year - around May - check this newsletter for a firm date soon.



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MEMBERSHIP LIST

First Name	Surname	Class	Sail no.	Tel - home	Tel - wk/ Mob
Graham	Allen	Taipan 4.9	AUS 128	9484 0611	0412 056 300
Kyle	Amadio	Hobie 18	16607	96743091	0411707081
Кетту	Ardern	Hobie 16	104294	9899 7858	0412 894 604
Michael	Ardern	Hobie 16	The state of the s	9899 7858	
John	Blackburn	Hobie 17	2332	9659 0537	0400 694 396
David	Bonallo	Hobie 18	16745		9972 3772/ 0415 658
Glenn	Brown	A CLASS	AUS 813	9997 6029	0416 000 775
Kerli, Ali, Dan	Corlett	Hobie 16	tba	9999 2401	9979 6546/ 0418 687
Frank	Costanzo	Hobie 16	97625	9918 6339	0403 260 258
Chris	Crook	Hobie 16	23	9948 1159	0403 922 940
Sophie	Crook	Hobie 16	23	9948 1159	
Chris & Lyn	De Veyrac	Hobie 16	104959	9817 7234	0418 241 745
Hal	Evans	Hobie 16	103119	9484 9215	0419 801 899
Llewellyn	Evans	Taipan 4.9			040 202 3377

David	Fisher	Hobie 16	107588	9484 8800	0425 267 794
John	Forbes	Tornado/ M-20	000/003	9982 9995	
Robert	Forbes	Marstrom 18		9999 2882	9450 2100/ 0414 440
John	Goldsmith	A Class	AUS843		0412 023 720
Ainslie	Gordon	Hobie 16	crew	9970 8834	0418 679 443
Tracy	Gowen	Hobie 16	crew	9484 8800	0416 161 986
David	Griffiths	Nacra	514	9977 7383	0414 572 072
Josh	Hamill	Nacra	514	9918 7475	0412 013 480
Nigel	Hextall	Hobie 16	3180511	4754 3858	0422 849 592
Tony	Hodson	Hobie 17	6403	9948 1208	0414 948 120
Tony	Hodson	Hobie 17	6403	99481208	0414948120
Jan	Jensen	Hobie 17	5735	9905 4869	9905 2146
Lesley	Kiely	Hobie 18	16808	9918 3198	9997 6024
Steve	Kiely	Hobie 18	16808	9918 3198	9997 6024
Upu	Kila	Hobie 16	107593	9401 7292	0412 047 501
David	Lawrence	Hobie 18	16649	8812 2354	0407 833 324
Guy	Machan	Hobie 17	6239	9894 8115	8839 2368/ 0408 524
John	McCormick	Hobie 16	107965	9999 4990	0404 812 215
Robyn	McCormick	Hobie 16	107965	9999 4990	0425 314 495
Don	McPhee	Description of the property of	crew	0412 590 006	9904 9273
Damien	Miller	Hobie 16	36	9913 3137	0438 884 655
Sam	Miller	Hobie 16	crew	9974 4998	0422 995 667
Kevin	Moffat	Hobie 16	95887	9905 1146	0402 109 959
Andrew	Nelson	Hobie 18	16814	9971 9590	0419 165 282
Maria	Nelson		crew	9971 9590	0419 165 282
Alan	Pitts	Hobie 16	tba	4956 7933	0412 359 532
Ross	Porter			6584 7073	0419 991 004
Claudia	Raymond	Hobie 18			
Peter	Salter	Hobie 16	81303	9452 4320	0412 865 795
Russell	Sheppard	Hobie 17	2912	9997 2128	0423 406 135
Bill	Sykes	Hobie 16	71TNT		0412 571 030
Simon	Taylor	Hobie 16	99876	9973 1983	0409 598 884
Andrew	Tuite	Hobie 16	36		0408 465 066
Mark	Uren	Hobie 17	5960	9876 8602	0418 474 235
Michael	Warren	Hobie 16	107618	9918 7024	0414 954 550
Geoff	Watson	Taipan 4.9	AUS 126	9929 4138	0418 214 401
Sam	Wood	Hobie 16	105271	9988 3850	0417 664 077







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AUSTRALIA DAY 2004

What could you do to make Australia Day a really fun day that you will always remember?

Well you could......race around Botany Bay with a Black Fella on a borrowed Hobie 18 that he hadn't sailed before, overpowered, underweight in strong winds and a swell with several gusts that almost knock you flat. Pulling every muscle in your body so that it hurts to move in any direction the next day.....you could!

It was a last minute decision to sail the Australia Day Marathon Race at Yarra Bay and I did give Oops some guidance as we were getting ready to sail, (I didn't believe his "um, yes" mumbled reply to my query as to whether or not he had been on an Hobie 18 before), so I said, "Oops, now just remember when an 18 starts to capsize there is nothing you can do about it," (translation: take it easy or we will not win the race) "the weight and momentum will take the boat and I have absolutely no leverage, it doesn't even know I am there!" (Translation: basically, you're on your own pal.)

So, thanks Yarra Bay Sailing Club for putting on a fun Marathon Race and thank you John (a member of Yarra Bay Sailing Club) for lending us your boat after Oops' boat was damaged by a passing motorist on the morning of the race, and thank you Oops it was a blast.....

Sam

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Nearly 2,000 compete in the Barcolona 35Photo courtesy of Edward Rowe

Alfa Romeo beat an enormous field of 1,983 yachts to take line honours in the Barcolona 35 in Italy in front of a quarter of a million spectators this past weekend. "I have never seen anything like it," said Alfa Romeo tactician, Brad Butterworth, who also performed the same role on America's Cup winner Alinghi. "The crowd, the people, the excitement, the boats - everything at the finish was bigger than even the America's Cup!"





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"BEWARE OF THE BULLETS BROKEN BAY REGATTA" 29 NOVEMBER 2003

By Sam Miller

For Photos, Click HERE

This year we combined our regatta with the Taipan State Titles, a lot of extra work for the Committee and our great team of helpers, but well worth the effort.

A very BIG THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make this Regatta a successful and memorable event.

Today the conditions are near perfect, and the boats just keep arriving......except one!

Oops and I had agreed to sail this regatta together months ago and he was to pick up Mike's boat at 8am Saturday morning. ..(Mike was away on hols and had kindly offered the use of his boat, Oops' boat was somewhere in the South Pacific). Unfortunately for me, Oops, had experienced a really big Friday night and was suffering the morning after horrors. I was experiencing a Sinus Infection, so we would make a great team! (Woeful and weak), but we had registered the boat as

"Two Blondes" so had to get our A's into G and preferably before

12 O'clock! Without the help of the following club members, I doubt that we would have even made it onto the water.

Enormous gratitude to Russell, for picking up Mike's boat and bringing it to the beach, not an easy task, (I was there).

Many, many thanks to Brad, for helping me Rig the boat.

Huge thanks to Chris & Sophie, for patiently explaining the course to me, (we missed the briefing) and I must of course thank Oops for finally getting on his feet and making it down to the beach just in time for the start! (This was after I offered to replace him as Skipper)!

There was a slight delay in starting Race 1, due to late Registrations, but when we finally did start, what great racing we had!







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The course was set on the other side of Lion Island, there was a small 1-2m swell, and a good 15-18 knots of wind. The racing was demanding and exciting stuff. There was another slight delay in starting Race 2, due to a Taipan wandering off course, the rest of the day ran smoothly. It was a very long day; we came in for a late lunch after two races, (A stipulation by the Taipan Association), and then went back out again for another race. It was tight racing and the finishes were very close, so close in fact that it was very difficult for the committee members to record all sail numbers in the right order whilst writing, due to the fact that 3 or 4 boats came over the line almost at the same time, so a tape recording was made as the sail numbers were called out to assist in obtaining accurate results.

2-

Ainslie had mentioned to me that Oops sails well whilst hung-over and she was right! At the end of day one Oops and I ended up in 1st place, just in front of Tim Shuwalow and Susan Pearce. (We had finished 2nd, 1st, and 1st). We did not make it back to the Club House until approximately 7pm very tired and ready for a well needed drink. A big thank you to Robyn and John McCormick who had organised a really great Spit Roast Dinner.

Day 2 gave us very simular racing conditions, sunny, 15-18 knots, maybe a little more, with a small swell again. It was bordering on maximum conditions for the Taipans, so the course was moved a little closer to Barrenjoey Headland. Oops was still feeling the after effects of his hangover, it was fast and furious racing again, we were getting hit by a few waves, one in particular knocked my feet out from under me whilst we were both out on wire, I crashed into the side of the boat, Oops kept on racing as if he had an annoying little knat hanging off the side, I hauled myself back on board and got back out on wire, quickly, yelling, "Ouch! That really hurt" but Oops was too busy laughing! We did three races back to back; it was great racing again with a few boats capsizing and more very close finishes. After Race 6 we returned to the beach (it was a great ride back in) pleasantly exhausted to enjoy the BBQ and presentation.

The results were as follows:
Hobie 18: 1st Rum Jungle -Steve and Lesley Kiely
2nd Thunder Pussy -Andrew Nelson and Don McPhee
3rd Brad Owen and Jamie Moxham

Hobie 17: 1st Mark Uren Tornado: 1st Mepwell 2nd Jan Jensen 2nd Newman

Hobie 16: 1st Red Team - Tim Shuwalow and Susan Pearce 2nd Two Blondes - Upu Kila and Sam Miller 3rd The PV2 - Dave Fisher and Tracey Gowen

A Class: 1st Mark Griffith Taipan 5.7 1st B. Smith 2nd UFO - Glenn Brown 2nd Henderson 3rd Sharp Thin 4th Dave Elwers

Taipan 4.9 1st A Williams Taipan 4.9 1st Marcovitch Sloop 2ndVan Kerckl Cat Rig 2ndVine 3rd Cook 3rd Chapman

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Beware the Bullets Broken Bay Regatta

November 2003











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Barbeque On the Lawn

pink pig in trouble

bullets regatta grp club

club bbq shot

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Hobie 16 National Championships Manly, Queensland 02 Jan to 07 Jan, 2004

by Sam Miller



Many PBSC Members travelled the road to Queensland this January to compete in the National Championships. I was one of the lucky few to fly to Brisbane, crew for a week, and then fly back again! As luck would have it, Nicole Corlette, who was also crew, took the same flight as me to BNE and we spent most of the flight talking about sailing and rolling our eyes muttering, "30knots, every day!"

The venue at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron was very well received by all the Hobie sailors. The 70 or so boats were stretched out on the lawns, the restaurant and bar were very accessible in bare feet, (my favourite kind) and the only strict requirement was to remove your hat inside the bar area,

apart from that, it was a casual affair with lots of familiar faces.

We were sailing in Series 2 Hobie 16 Open and Masters.

The Youths, Women's, Tigers, 18's and NS14 (see Andrew Nelson's Report) was held the previous week in heavy weather which provided some BIG STACKS according to the Regatta City Daily News which was available every day at the club. We heard through the grapevine that approximately fifty thousand dollars overall damage was done in Series 1.

Let us hope the Hobie 16's could escape that kind of drama.

The Hobie sailors certainly put on a show New Years Eve, the Daily News reported, "The Squadron experienced its first mosh pit and crowd surfing in front of the Boardwalk Stage and midnight was celebrated *enthusiastically* by all." (In other words they are still in shock)!

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Friday 2 Jan was sailed in near perfect conditions; we sailed in the morning with 15-20 knot breezes, a beautiful day on the water. With about 70 boats on the start line, you would expect at least one general recall - but we escaped that today only. The first lot of results were in:

Open:

1st Rican-Aussie Salope – Gavin Colby & Simone Matfield

2nd Team Red - Tim Shuwalow & Susan Pearce

3rd Mark Laruffa & Crew

Group B:

1st Double Happiness - Chris & Lyn De Veyrac

2nd 105399 - Martin Williams & Crew

3rd The PV 2 - Dave Fisher & Tracey Gowen

Hobie Masters:

1st Sailing Scene - Kerli & Ali Corlett

2nd Maleny Lavender - Murray Peterson & crew

3rd Double Diamond - Phil Smythe & crew

Hobie fossil:

1st Double Diamond - Phil Smythe & crew

2nd Cosmic - Robert Henderson & crew

3rd Faster Disaster Master - Bruce Tardrew & Sarah

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Regatta City Daily News

Saturday 3 January 2004

"Saturday conditions saw good sailing breezes of 15-20 knots with a number of gusts and squalls coming through with 24-25 knot breezes."

Results:

Hobie 16

Gavin Colby, Tim Shuwalow, Andrew Keag and Aaron Worral all placed well today without going into too much detail.

Group B:

1st - Dave Fisher & Tracey Gowen

2nd Martin Williams & crew

3rd Gerard Ryan & crew

Hobie Masters:

1st Kerli & Ali Corlett

2nd Murray Peterson & crew

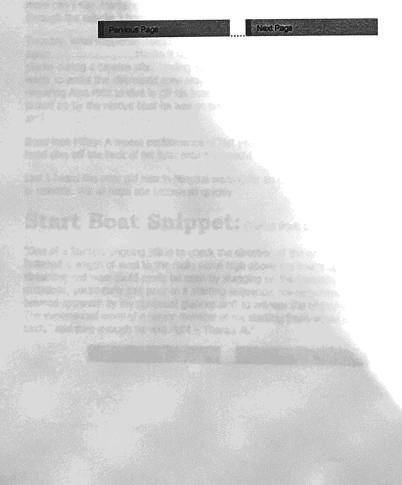
3rd Bruce Tardrew & Sarah

Hobie Fossil:

1st Phil Smyth & crew

2nd Bruce Tardrew & Sarah

3rd Robert Henderson







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Sunday's conditions were much the same again, there were 4 races today and I don't remember too much about it, we almost sank and we capsized, (not necessarily at the same time) I had a bruise on my head from hitting the mast during the capsize not the sinking, maybe I was concussed?

There was another incident out on the water today, Jerome Binder from Lennox Head (who is earning quite a reputation for himself) T-Boned another boat almost splitting it into **two**. It was **not** Jerome's fault though, the other boat was out of control downwind and careered across in front of Jerome giving him no where to go but through it! The results were almost a "ditto" of Saturday's except the **Hobie Masters:** Kerli & Ali were still leading closely followed by Upu Kila & Margaret Frank and then Mal Grey and his daughter.

I am not sure how anyone made it to The Mexican Night, everyone looked exhausted after 3 days of racing in strong winds but you know how much the Hobie sailors love to fiesta. Arreeeba!

Monday was lay day.....everyone did their own thing. Recover, sightsee etc. I managed to fall asleep watching Lord of the Rings 3, something that seemed to shock anyone that found out. It was a lovely cool theatre with comfortable seats.....what more can I say. Margaret (Oopsys crew from Papua New Guinea) managed to stay awake through the whole 3 hour movie but she did look tired afterwards.

Tuesday, what happened Tuesday, dammed if I can remember! We must have raced again.......Maybe it was today that a crew member broke her leg in two places during a capsize after landing squarely on the cleated main! Mal Grey dove in the water to assist the distressed crew leaving his daughter on his boat which also capsized requiring Alan Pitts to dive in off his boat to assist. (Alan told me that by the time he was picked up by the rescue boat he was so tired he fell head first into the boat, legs in the air!)

Good look Pittsy! A repeat performance of last years Nationals at Eden where he did a head dive off the back of his boat onto the beach!

Last I heard the poor girl was in hospital waiting for an Orthopaedic Surgeon to be found to operate. We all hope she recovered quickly.

Start Boat Snippet: (Taken from the Daily News)

"One of a Starters ongoing job is to check the direction of the breeze. To aid this I fastened a length of wool to the radio aerial high above the boat's upper deck. The streaming red wool could easily be seen by standing on the transom. On a number of occasions, particularly just prior to a starting sequence, my nervousness must have seemed apparent by my continual glances aloft to witness the breeze direction change. The experienced word of a senior member of my starting team would say, "it'll come back," and sure enough he was right — Thanks Al."

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Sam's Snippet:

On my way to the Regatta Office to protest my Skippers use of bad language on the water

after he discovered **I** had left the bungs out I asked a known identity the wind speed and was told "the word **is** Hooper's wind indicator is stuck on 18 knots." We loves ya Hoops!

Regatta Rescue Massage (Taken from the Daily News)

"For those tired aches and bones at the end of the days racing see Tracey, situated under the tent on the Mirror Rigging Lawn or ring for a Regatta Rescue Massage."

A bit of Hobie History (Taken from

the Daily News)

The Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron hosted the Hobie 16 National Championships again back in 1974. The winning crew of that series was Bill Sykes who, the next year, turned to skippering and went on to win another three Hobie 16 National Championships. The 2004 Hobie 16 Nationals has Billy Sykes Jnr skippering a Hobie 16 trying to emulate his father's great sailing record, Billy Jnr has already sailed the Tiger series and proved his skippering qualities in yachts.

(FYI - Bill Sykes and Billy Sykes Jnr are members of PBSC).

Regatta City Daily News

Wednesday 7th January 2004

"Competition concludes today for the Hobie National Championship."

"World Champion Gavin Colby leads the Australian Hobie 16 Championships with two races to be sailed this morning in a strong 15-20 knot forecast breeze."

Results from Series 2:

Hobie 16 Open

1st Rican-Aussie Salope - Gavin Colby & Simone Matfield

2nd 107968 - Aaron Worral & Crew

3rd Team Red – Tim Shuwalow and Susan Pearce

B Group

1st The PV 2 - David Fisher and Tracey Gowen

2nd 105399 - Martin Williams and Crew

3rd Seaway Marine - Anthony Smith & Crew

Hobie Masters

- 1st Sailing Scene Kerli & Ali Corlett
- 2nd Imprint Upu Kila & Margaret Frank
- 3rd Maleny Lavender Murray Peterson & Crew

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Hobie Fossil

1st Faster Disaster Master – Bruce Tardrew & Sarah

2nd Cosmic – Robert Henderson & Crew

3rd Double Diamond – Phill Smyth & Crew

The results from Series 1:

Hobie 18

1st 16801 - David Bent & Crew

2nd Rum Jungle - Steve & Lesley Kiely

3rd Thunder Pussy – Andrew Nelson and Don McPhee

Hobie Womens

1st Nickbel – Belinda Zanesco & Crew

2nd Patch - Donna Kennedy & Crew

3rd Hobie Sports - Katie Spithill & Crew

Tigers

1st Hobie Aus – Darren Bundock

2nd Hobie Aus – Brad Summer

3rd Hobie Aus – Steve Fields

Youths

1st 105289 – Shane Peterson

2nd Who Cares – Michael Peterson

3rd Hosking Jewelers - Robbie Loving

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The Thunderpussy Chronicles

(a Hobie 18 sailor's perspective)

by Andrew Nelson

The story of one Hobie's sorties into the big wide world outside Palm Beach Sailing Club as recalled from the fragmented and probably distorted memory of her skipper.

Parts of this saga are probably inaccurate due to consumption of red wine, beer and caffeine.

Port Stephens Regatta Nov 15-16

Our first regatta.

The boat is rigged, entry fees sorted and accommodation claimed. All that remains is to attend the briefing and then hit the water. It is shaping up to be the best sailing day off the season blue skies 15-knot nor'easter and relatively flat water. The 18 fleet comprises five boats Rum Jungle and Thunderpussy from PBSC and three boats from Yarra Bay. A good test for us first timers! We attend the briefing. The 18s are to sail with the Hobie 16s and Arrows.

First race. We get a great pin end start breaking into clean air and hitting the line with speed for about 100 meters before being called back for general recall. The restart is nearly as good. However we are still working on our teamwork and the first work is not as good as it could have been. Steve and Lesley have cleared out in the 18's and it looks like Kerli has the 16's under control. We round the top mark finding a second mark dead in front of us, as it was not in the sailing instructions nor mentioned in the briefing we immediately disregard it and run it down. We tussle with Brad Owen from Yarra Bay settling for third place in the first race in the H18s.

Second race. We choose the pin end again along with Rum Jungle and Sailing Scene (Kerli). After disputing our position on the line with Kerli (It was only a love tap) and hitting the line again near the pin end we see the boat end starters lift over us and realise we have become boxed in. By the time we reach the top mark we are way back in the 18 fleet but by the finish have made it to third spot. The highlight of the race was watching a little trailer sailer, skipper complete with beer in hand calling starboard on half the fleet at the bottom mark.

That concluded the on water activities for the day and we returned to shore, bedded Thunderpussy down for the night and went in search of beer. On reaching the club we are informed that it is expected that boats go round the offset mark, this explaining all the carrying on that accompanied us around the top mark each time, we pointed out that the mark was not shown in the race instructions nor mentioned in the briefing and as such not part of the course and I could run over it as many timed as I deemed fit this sent the Yarra Bay guys back to their sailing instructions in earnest while we consumed some refreshing beverage and reflected on what had been the best sailing day so far of the season.

Showered, changed and relaxed from the above-mentioned beverages the four of myself, Maria still recovering from sailing with Mick Butler, Don and Sarah descended on the Salamander Bay Bowling Club for dinner and to watch the Rugby Semi Final between the All Blacks and the Wallabies. The Wallabies won probably the most important result of the weekend.

Sunday dawned hot and still. And we waited and we waited for some squirt of wind to get us out on the water. Rumours started to fly about a Southerly swirling up the coast with mobiles running hot to Sydney and points south for weather updates. Finally we get the signal and paddle the boats 100 meters offshore into a fitful Nor'something-or-other. Watching the sky we see a line of high white thin cloud scudding out of the south followed by a brown mist pushed up from the approaching Southerly.

The first gusts squirt across the water. Realising the race committee would need to reset the course we decide to enjoy the new breeze. However within a few minutes we are perused by the rescue boat and informed that racing had been abandoned. Never one to miss opportunities we point Thunderpussy's bows at the resort on the far side of Salamander Bay double trap and let fly. In what seems only a few minutes we are screaming over flat water with 25knots apparent on the beam. On the far side we reached a couple of markers we thought may be shallow water and jumped on board for a tack. All hell breaks loose as the start boat comes flying up fully on the plane demanding we

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return to shore over a bull horn lights and sirens. Apparently they had been perusing us for a couple of miles! Not to worry we set the Bows back to wards the west, doubled wired and kept the apparent on the beam until we had to tighten up to work the last part of the trip home. Still flat water and now with gusts of over thirty knots. SMOKING.

We were third in the 18s and about mid fleet on yardstick in our division. Full results available on the internet. It was time to pack up and head for home. We had set our benchmark. The F3 was not to be so friendly on the way home.

Beware of the Bullets.

Our home regatta. This one should be easy to find. Nice early start, arrive, rig, enter and away we go. Courses would leeward-windward with gates and clearance marks.

We arrive at the starting area counting out three other Hobie 18s. Rum Jungle, Brad Owen from Yarra Bay and David and Sophie on F#@*!!\$g Optimist. The teamwork is starting to gel and Thunderpussy is starting to fire. The breeze is 12 to 15 knots from the nor' east and the chop slight. We start with the 16s, the race area on the North side of Lion Island. We start well in the first race round the top marks including the clearance mark catch a scorcher of a gust out from under the headland to win the first race. The second race we again start well to come in behind Steve and Lesley.

Then the dramas begin. The fleet heads for the beach after the second race of the day. On entering Pittwater Rum Jungle suddenly stops to retrieve the crew from an overturned Tiger (from Yarra Bay, victims of the bullets). Steve and Lesley return the Tiger crew to their drifting and horizontal craft. We amble by to see if they are OK. They are too weary to right their craft. Being the gentleman I am I immediately volunteer Don to assist and shove him in the appropriate direction. The three of them right the Tiger and I retrieve my crew. What's this? A Trailer Sailing type Catamaran thingy has gone in to briny. We venture over to see if we can lend assistance. Kyle Amando and John Goldsmith on PBSC rescue boat have already rescued a young girl from the debacle, the crew wearing no life jackets and not much else. We ascertain that there is nobody trapped before exiting the scene narrowly being missed by an out of control Compass 28 with the crew pointing in different directions screaming "Its Jammed" Whether this was the main sheet or the skipper's white knuckles we did not hang around to find out. Finally Thunderpussy kisses the sand of Sand Point.

Another race. Off we go again commute around Lion Island for the last race of the day. Maybe I should not have had the last beer. Our race is not nearly as coordinated as the last two. We seem to be out of sync with the breeze and Don commits an unauthorised departure from our craft. We finish third

A new day dawns. Having been called away the night before we missed out on the spit roast and festivities so were in reasonable condition. We coaxed off the beach by John in the rescue boat hitting the sailing area South of Lion Island with time to spare.

Another perfect sailing day. Another couple of races another couple of man over boards. This time we have climbed the ladder and hold down 2nd place in Hobie 18s to Steve and Lesley for the regatta. Well done for the organisation and effort to all club members you put the regatta together.

Wangi Wangi Dec 6th and 7th

A different weather pattern a different venue. A southerly air stream and brooding overcast weather are the order of the day. We hit the water for two races in the afternoon. Saturday we do not start as well as we would like but make could speed up the first leg. The three PBSC boats all rounding the top mark close together with Brad from Yarra Bay also in the gaggle. Leslie decides on an alternative course for the first race unfortunately not recognised by the race committee. Brad takes the honours with us second. Roller Coaster (Dave and Claudia) finish third. In the 16s it looks Tim Shallouw has found a couple of extra gears in his boat and is starting to set the pace.

The second race of the day and Steve and Lesley claim first we are second. Thunderpussy is really enjoying the conditions 20knots and relatively flat water. And joy of joy a wing mark, call me old fashion but I do love those little fellows out on the side.

Saturday night sausage sizzle and red wine tasting and an interesting chat with the local RSL until exhaustion sets in and we head for our digs.

Sunday morning. The weather has not changed, if anything, the breeze has increased. On the water to greet the starter it feels about 20-25knots again with leaden clouds and the odd spot of drizzly rain. We start better today and cap off the series with two wins. Narrowly giving us the regatta. But oh the pain, the pain, hopefully these series of regattas has given us some match fitness because next its the big one......



IN SHE



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Royal Queensland Yacht Club









Rigging up H16s

Oops no wonder it rained!

Conditions were challenging

Capsize-Oops passing by

whitecaps



nationals start



Aali n Kerli Nationals 200



Dave&Tracy doing well in new boat.



The fleet



2004



Group shot



And the winner is

capsiz

Mark rounding



nationals 2004

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