

# SEAHORSE

Elwood Sailing Club Newsletter – January 2006

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## STOP PRESS

Jim & Bianca Scott win the Yachting Victoria Dinghy Championships sailing a Formula 15 at Skandia Geelong week.

Congratulations!!

## Commodore's Report

The highlight of this report, (which seems to be the first for a while as I missed writing for the season opening issue), is: The Formula Windsurfer World Championships. This series lasted for over a week, as it was combined with the National championships which were run as a warm-up series. The event was most professionally run, although the weather did not favour us and races were postponed, while waiting for the wind to arrive. (It inevitably did at about 5.00pm each day. The comments of competitors were generally favourable, with a few bitches about their class association and the general cost of the event, (both out of our control). We as a Committee, saw the importance of gaining maximum benefits through the associated media exposure and the direct income from the event and bar and canteen sales. This was a trade-off for losing two race days, emptying the boat storage area and providing man, (and woman) power to run the event. Thank you all for your co-operation.

Yachting Victoria and the Formula Windsurfer Association assisted us in the organization of the event and were mindful of our expressed desire to return a profit for the Elwood Sailing Club. Many thanks and credits go also to the 2 James' (Caust & Rudolph) for their efforts before and during the event. As always,

the same group of Elwood volunteers were there to provide the day-to-day management of race control, sign-on and entries and general beach management. While we haven't received the final costs and receipts, first indications are the efforts have been worthwhile for the club.

As a possible spin-off from these championships, we have been advised that the Formula Windsurfing class has been replaced by a new Olympic class and we are hopeful of adding to our already large windsurfing membership. As an aside, for those of you who are not aware of our windsurfing mates, venture down to the club after work on a windy afternoon when no one in their right mind would leave the safety of the shore, and see the windsurfers in action.

The next issue of interest and importance is that of the building extension at the rear of the storage area. This is on track, and we have received the building permits which will allow us to store the large patrol boat with its bum to the wall to permit easy access and maximize our storage area, (which will be covered). At the moment, however, we are storing the Julie Waugh at the Marina and depending on whether some maintenance issues can be addressed, this may be the long term solution to storing big, immovable boats in front of the storage racks. As is the usual case, the permits took an age to go through, and we had hoped to have them completed by the start

of the Worlds. As this was obviously not going to happen, the decision was made to wait until the end of the season and thus minimize the disruption to members.

The training school has gained Yachting Victoria accreditation through the efforts of Brian Adney and Andrew Barnett. We have just started the new season of training and Mark Foster as coach is keeping things under control. ESC has just been given an old Elwood Junior which was built under the supervision of Dennis Mercovich at Elwood, some 25 years ago. In spite of its age, it is in excellent condition and should introduce young trainees to the wonders of cat sailing! Many thanks to Rex Patkin for his generous donation.

After a long respite, we finally commenced sailing two weeks ago, and I am sure that many of like me were suffering from withdrawal symptoms. Scott Barnett and Mark Foster coped admirably with one boat – Quickcat was available, but her keys were not. We have a spare set, but who knows where! Mark and John managed to lay the course and manage two sets of starts for a double race day. Last week, we had 2 boats, but the wind died out and changed direction and so an abandonment and restart was a good decision. (Who forgot to tell Robert, who was reportedly leading?!)

As a last item, I take this opportunity to remind you that Elwood SC is hosting the Paper Tiger Interdominion Titles at

Easter and volunteers will be required. A good opportunity to support our club and see some top cat sailing first hand.

Ted Masur

Commodore

Editorial

Welcome to 2006! In this issue we have some reports from the regattas held over the Christmas break. Congratulations to those who competed. Sounds like the Tigers had plenty of breeze and the Es had almost none. The Formula Windsurfers were challenging for the club but eventually were a success both on and off the water.

Time to get back onto the club scene!! The Elwood assault on the Top of the Bay looms as this issue goes to press. Let's hope we can get a great turnout for this event and the club racing in the following weeks. If you know someone who hasn't been seen recently, give them a call and encourage them to get re-acquainted with the beautiful Elwood waters.

The past two weeks have shown the dependence we have on only a few club members to run our racing. Thanks to those who have stood in at the last minute instead of sailing as they had planned. This is in NO WAY a criticism of our regular Patrol Boat crews – I believe they give very generously of their time already – we simply need more qualified members so that the workload does not fall on so few. Maybe the “off season” will see a few more of us acquiring a power boat licence and getting in some practice.

## Tales From The Bar

All the organization, hype and conflict for the worlds wind surfing championship was well worth it. A week before it started and the boards rolled in before the yachts rolled out.

The Monday saw six containers arrive by semi trailer. Peter who drove the semi's had fun TRYING to do wheelies along the foreshore. The Tie Kwo classes who were doing meditation had their thoughts interrupted by a 30 second blast from the semi's air horns. Cameras, {web cam}, computers were set up and flag poles raised, Extra patrol boats and ducks arrived and generally things were done.

The Australian Nationals commenced on Saturday finishing on Sunday with Alison Schreeve from N.S.W. winning the girls event. A great start for the week.

Tuesday the start of the worlds competition with a welcome party on Tues. night. With the protests going on 'till well into the night speeches were overlooked and every one departed with a full tummy. The catering was extremely good as a result every one came back for seconds and the food soon ran out. Wednesday had good evening sailing as the breeze came in late and finished at approx 10.30 p.m. Thursday late winds again and sailing finished about 7.00. That night a sponsor held a dinner for the guys and free drinks for an hour was very much appreciated. Once again catering was good with steaks and meat being provided at the Barbie with everyone cooking their own meat.

A lot of interaction at the BAR especially Michael from the American Virgin Islands. He liked our cappuccinos and thought our waters were cold. A better wet suit to was required he thought. On completion of the series a French guy won the men's and Alison won the ladies. And the Scandinavians won the partying with VODKA. A good night was certainly had by all and the Crownies certainly were a hit as I had to go out three times to replenish stocks.

Good and safe SAILING

The BAR QUEEN

Fur From The Tiger

In a record-breaking performance, McCrae's Bryan Anderson won his fourth consecutive Paper Tiger Catamaran Australian Championship. The 36th Goodall Yacht Sails Paper Tiger Catamaran Australian Championships was held at the Derwent Sailing Squadron in Hobart, Tasmania. There were 40 boats from five states competing (VIC, NSW, SA, TAS and WA).

No other sailor has won the PT Australian Championships four times, although a number have won it three times, including Bryan's father Peter and Garry Williams, who were both competing this year. Peter actually won two of the races at this year's event, with Bryan winning three, Ian Marcovitch (NSW) two, and Richard McKeon (Vic) and Mike McDonald (Vic) one each.

Runner up was Bryan's club mate, Mark Wiggins, who was forced to do a major re-build on his boat a week before the series after it was damaged by a freak

wind gust on the shore at his club. Third place went to local Bruce Rose.

The next Paper Tiger Catamaran Interdominion Championships will be held at Elwood over Easter 2006. The top Australians have been invited to form the National Team for this event and compete against the top ten from New Zealand. Another 20 invitees from Australia and NZ will make up the rest of the entrants.

The top ten Australians were:

1. Bryan Anderson (McCrae) 15pts
2. Mark Wiggins (McCrae) 32
3. Bruce Rose (Tas) 34
4. Ben Deed (McCrae) 39
5. Stephen Brayshaw (McCrae) 41
6. Drew Helmore (Elwood) 44
7. Greg Williams (NSW) 45
8. Ian Marcovitch (NSW) 51
9. Mike McDonald (McCrae) 55
10. Richie McKeon (McCrae) 62

Mike Wold was unfortunate not to make the top 10 and sailed well to place 11<sup>th</sup> overall. There was talk that one of the McCrae skippers will not be attending the regatta at Elwood so this is good news for Mike because it means we will have a second Elwood sailor in the team.

Randal Garham (22<sup>nd</sup> place) and Alan White (24<sup>th</sup> place) also sailed well in this competitive fleet. One small mistake on the race course typically cost many places. The whole fleet generally finished a race within a few minutes. Looking at the top 10 it is clear that McCrae has a very strong fleet and I would expect these individuals to perform well over Easter. Interesting also to note that these McCrae sailors are mostly in their early 20's and the 4 time winner Bryan is only 26. This is a good indication of

the strength of the PT fleet at McCrae.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the event over Easter. Also if anyone can help out with accommodation close to Elwood for the NZ team, please contact one of the PT guys at the club.

PT 1437

Dolphin Droppings

I have little information re Class happenings over the Christmas / Holiday break (modesty, and the fact I haven't been sailing prevents me from recounting anything to do with me) hence I am drawn to tell of the exploits of one Dolphin sailor.

This person will remain anonymous and no identity clues will be given other than a vague name association with a take - out food chain who are prone to say 'would you like fries with that?' No other I/D will be given.

We pick up the story at Christmas when he briefly took away his extended family to a country retreat for a stay with festivities - very good marital brownie points in that!

He then did the Launceston crossing on Turbo, out of Williamstown. It was near to a dead run all the way and took a bit over 24 hours only.

Apparently a very easy race and they came 5<sup>th</sup>. A change to previous years and all that 'on the nose' slog across the Strait. Flew home and then the next day, got out the TS. Went down to the Gippsland Lakes for a while with a trailerables club group of boats - met Gilly there also on his TS (John Gill of Dolphin earlier years and he of the tall stories). I touched base with him on his return, nearly a fortnight later - had some very

good sailing with great weather. There is no moral to this story except to say if any of the rest of us indulged in such a range of non - wife - participant activities we would be dead! I would not go there myself, I know my boundaries.

This recalcitrant lives on - so raise your glasses to him in a toast, he is one of the truly brave.

The Roache Bros. and John McDonald joined Graeme Williams (Brmple, ex Elwood SC) at his home club at Sugarloaf Reservoir early in December for a heat of their aggregate. The wind comes in at 4pm and the race started at 4.30, with the wind light and every which way. Graeme held out John to be first, so after a season or two he is getting to be a crafty lake sailor.

A few of us are going to St Leonards for their Cat Regatta on the January 28 / 29 weekend, as one leg of the Dolphin Traveller Series.

Bete Noir, Dolphin #318

**SABRE NEWS**

Before we knew it, the first half of the season had gone! Due to running the Formula Worlds, we missed sailing after 3rd December, and with Christmas and New Year it was a month before we sailed at Elwood again. Thanks must go to our class sailors who were volunteers for the Worlds - Paul Stamp, Stan Kurth and Brian Adeney - with behind the scenes, Alan Carlisle (who was on the International Jury), Andrew Gruskin, and Brian Proven.

However the lack of sailing has not diminished the competitive spirit, as was shown in the two races on 7th January. Although

only three boats took part, the races were amongst the closest we have ever had. We hope that the remainder of our fleet will return from holidays soon, full of enthusiasm.

Results for the first half of the season are posted on the club web site (which is now even better than before), and in summary shows the Vice-Commodores Trophy was won by T-Bear (Alan Carlisle) in first place, followed by (Ripple) Brian Proven and (Sea Soar) David Wilkinson. It is great to see that new members of the fleet Jack Ellis (Chocolate Hostage) and Ashley Parkinson (Super Cedar) were in 5th and 7th places. Unfortunately for a number of other boats, although very competitive on the water, they were not able to sail in enough races to be higher in the results scores, but we hope to see them all on the water in the near future. We also believe there are other potential competitors who are looking for Sabres - with the titles over, there may be some boats available now, so we wish them luck.

In the Class Championships, Ripple leads from Touche and T-Bear after five races, but from here on anything can happen as the point scores are very close.

**From the HYGM**

Thanks to our secretary, Jack Ellis, here are a few highlights from the HYGM.

- Permit received for the work to the rear of the Club. Work will be done at the end of the season.
- New RIB to be bought for use as a Rescue Boat
- New multimedia package to be set up so that we can view the day's events after sailing. (Is this a good thing? – Ed.)

Thanks to the members who are working hard behind the scenes to accomplish these initiatives and to maintain all the other facilities we sometimes take for granted.

**125 News**

Congratulations to Jamie Thomson 3140 "Slow Boat" on winning the 125 National Championships at South of Perth Yacht Club , Christmas 2005. Jamie sailed with crew Rhys Nevin from WA. He obtained 2 1sts, 2 2nds, 2 3rds and a DNF with a broken rudder. Second was local boat 3104 "Bob , skipper Danny O'Byrne, third was 3082 "She Waits for No Man" skipper Kevin Cameron from Queensland..

Back home club racing made way in December for Santa Claus (Rob Anderson) then the Formula Windsurfing Australian and World Championships. Thank you to all those sailors and families who assisted with that event. While there were no club races at Elwood the 125s have been visiting other clubs. A travellers series race was held at Mt Martha on 12 December and a visit to Chelsea training squad on 19 December.

While some have been sailing they have also been involved in riding bicycles up mountains and finding crayfish on Bruny Island. There have also been a couple of boats changing hands so we can look forward to seeing some different sail numbers on the water when refurbishment is finished. We welcome to the 125 class Mark and Grace Killmer with 176 "Scarlet" and have recently seen Marcus Fakhry with 940 "Red Herring" on the waters near the clubhouse. Ross , when are we going to see your new yacht?

Well done to the Arnolds for their win in the class championship race in changeable conditions on Saturday 21 January.

In the next few weeks there is a 125 travellers series race at Williamstown on 18 January, the Top of the Bay race (6 clubs) at Port Melbourne on the morning of 4 February. The 125 State Titles are being held at Black Rock on 18-19 February and Williamstown on 25-26 February. The Notice of Race with entry form is on the class web site [www.125assoc.com](http://www.125assoc.com) on the News and Events Victoria page .

**Good Sailing**

Luna-Sea 3126

**A new life for your old trophies**

Do you have trophies sitting around in cupboards, junk rooms, boxes in the garage or taking up space and annoying the person who does the dusting? Would you like to give them a new life and be able to provide some excitement to a young person?

Elwood is running the 17th Victorian Schools Sailing Championships on 4-5 March. Last year we had great success in providing trophies to the winners by relabelling some of the past years ESC trophies . The 2001-2 and 2002-3 "yacht" trophies had brass coloured labels with printing or engraving that were readily removed and replaced with new labels. Other event trophies can be relabelled also.

If you have any sailing related trophies you no longer want that could be relabelled please pass them to Andrew Barnett before 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Thank you  
Alison Penington