



From the Bridge!!

G'day all. (or should that be "Ahoy"?)

I thought that it might be an idea to start a sailing version of Secretary Peter's excellent initiative 'From the Bilge' with the aim of dropping a few hints and tips and general sailing news to our members. I would like all members, whether sailing or social to have a read of these as they may even feel like having the odd sail as a crew.

On that subject, most of us could use an extra crew member occasionally even if completely unskilled. All you need is to be reasonably agile on all fours and not mind getting a bit wet on occasions. If you wish to discuss this further ring myself, Jim Quinn or Peter foster. Our midweek races are a good time to try yourself out as they are slightly lower key than the Saturday ones and start at 4.00 pm during the summer. They finish around 5.30 and are followed by a sausage sizzle and general bonhomie.

The Rules

I feel that most of us, myself included, have a very general knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing. We tend to go out for our Wednesday or Saturday afternoon racing with the intention of keeping out of trouble, giving way to those on Starboard Tack, not hitting a buoy or each other and generally enjoying ourselves without incurring the wrath of our fellows or a phone call to our insurance company.

A good knowledge of the rules can enhance our enjoyment of Yacht Racing immeasurably. Yacht racing is not unlike a game of chess. You only have to watch a match race to see the similarity.

Starting tactics, rounding marks, overtaking slower boats, preventing others overtaking you can all be great opportunities for using the rules to our advantage without infringing the rights of other competitors or using unfair tactics.

To aid us in improving our knowledge I have produced a range of Stubby Coolers which will be available free at the Clubhouse Bar for us all to use (A) to keep our beer cold and (b) to possibly stimulate discussion of the rules during our apre' race fellowship.

As stated above, these are free, please return them to the bar as you leave the Clubhouse and please don't leave them on your table where they can blow around, possibly off our premises.

I will keep adding to them as time permits.

I have obtained a lot of information from a internet site: <http://game.finckh.net> which features a full account of the rules and a great number of active demonstrations of the various scenarios in which various rules come into play. Have a look at it, I guarantee you will really enjoy it.

Sailing Magazines.

Ken Kohen who owns that immaculate East Coast 31 moored over near the island has donated a huge collection of Australian Sailing and Cruising Helmsman magazines to our Club. Some are a bit old but ALL have some great information in them. By all means take a couple home with you to read but PLEASE bring them back! They will be available over the next few weeks after I have finished reading them!!!

Happy Sailing.

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