



Meeting of the handicapped!

Greg Lane produced an excellent explanation of our handicapping system to an audience of about 30 interested skippers last Tuesday evening. Even I, an ex farmer and Real Estate Agent, now have a grasp of how it works.

I would like to make a couple of points. There are four handicaps operating in our Summer Programme. One for the Pointscore, Club Championship, Sternchaser and Marathon series. One for the midweek twilights. One for Inshore or Offshore. The sprint races, the non-spinnaker cruises, such as the Jack Holman Trophy and the Berman Memorial Races and special events use the handicap resulting from the previous Pointscore/Sternchaser/Marathon Race. The result of that event has no effect on subsequent events..OK?

Ocean races have a different handicap as will the Inshore series sailed on the same day. .

Prior to this meeting, Greg, who is our honorary handicapper, was making small adjustments to prevent irregularities appearing in the system due to events dramatically affecting a yacht's performance in a particular race. This practice will be discontinued from now on. It is felt that the system possibly has enough self correction built in to it to probably render this unnecessary. Time will tell!

Greg did send me a very interesting question and answer document written by John McLurcan who developed the Performance Handicapping System which I found very good and interesting reading. Please let me know if you would like me to email you a copy.

Each Saturday from now on, the result sheet for that day's race and your handicap for the next race in that series will be on the website and on the board

I must thank Greg for all his hard work and dedication to this somewhat thankless task. Be it yacht racing, golf, squash, cycling, running or whatever, the handicappers lot is not necessarily a happy one! However we are most fortunate to have a very good system and the right bloke running it.

The Rounding Marks

The saga goes on. (Apologies to Pat!) After several discussions with Matt from Waterways, we were offered the Wedding Cake Mark as our very own! This would have enabled us to keep the orange colour but we would have to maintain it and its little flashing light for ever! The Board decided against this. So, as it is a "special purpose" mark it

has to be yellow in colour. Bob Fitzhenry and I scraped most of the orange paint off it last Saturday morning so it is now back to its original dull yellow. We did manage to remove about 70 mm of black gunk off the bottom of the yellow bits so there is a bit more of it showing but it is still hard to see if the sun is not shining on it. The solution is to either slow down and follow someone or get a GPS!

Moorings:

The Social Mooring is now vacant and is available for any Boat Owner member to occupy for up to 23 hours at any time. He (or she!) must allow other member's yachts to raft up. Please refer to our webpage and refresh your memory as to the use of the Marina berths, on race days. We must remember that their use is a privilege extended to us by Marina Management and not a right!

The Starters Pole.

The new box on the pole is creeping closer and we hope to have it fully functional in a couple of weeks. Heather, Dave and crew now have a generator and fan for the hotter days and we are calling tenders for the supply of a pot bellied stove for the winter months. If you happen to call into the van, have a look at the workmanship and the very attractive plaque that Peter Ballard organised to commemorate the work of the volunteer construction workers and the late Ian Matheson.

Last Saturday.

Did you all notice the strength of the tide at Dutchies Bouy? It had a bow wave a couple of feet high! Just watch out if the same course is set and the tide is making rather than ebbing! And didn't Exalte go well! Had full sail, spinnaker and a clean bottom! Led from start to finish. Very handy for finding Wedding Cake!

A Fishing Story.

Was out in my kayak this morning, trying to catch lunch, when my friend Tim who was in his kayak, radioed me to let me know that fisheries had just stopped him and wanted to see his fishing licence. Fortunately he had it in his pocket. If he hadn't he was informed that he would have been issued with a caution and have to produce it in 24 hours, next time, no warning but a \$200 on the spot fine!!! Fortunately, I was around the corner of the Anchorage Marina and they missed me!

Sprints

Unfortunately we had to call off the last Sprint day for safety reasons as the wind was simply too strong and the tide too adverse to have four starts on our line. We are amending the sailing instructions for the next series to cater for this and will have an inshore race if the same circumstances occur. Otherwise, unless there is a gale warning at 11.00 am, scheduled races will be sailed.

See you at the Bar! John Way 0412493586