



From the Bridge

No 20



Presentation Night.

From all reports we all enjoyed ourselves and were very enthusiastic about Pat Hurley and his crew winning the Noakes Club Championship in Saga. They have sailed well and very skilfully for the whole season and really deserved their win. So did Nelson J and Solanda who came second and third respectively. The list of winners was pretty long and I don't have the space to go into it here, but well done everybody. A great season.

Other award winners were Doug Wheen who was Club Member of the year and Ray Dean, Crewman of the year. Doug is always around when there is a job to be done, and Ray covers a lot of territory driving down and back from Gloucester twice a week to crew on Rainbow. Both great Club members and very deserving recipients.

On behalf of all of us I must thank Bryan Shaw who did a fantastic job of cooking over 100 fish to perfection, all the ladies who prepared the salads, those who helped set the tables and manned (womended) the kitchen and, top of the list, must go Peter and Jane Foster who, as usual did a fantastic job of organising the whole thing. Actually, when we walked up the stairs and entered the banquet hall we felt that we were walking into a wedding reception.

The evening was a record for a Club event financially too, which was extraordinary when you remember that each table had wine supplied and the whole evening only cost us \$20 per head!

We had a board meeting last night and resolved to explore some methods of reducing the noise upstairs. It is difficult to hear the person across the table and when the bar staff find it hard to decipher a drinks order, something must be done!

If any of you have or know persons with soundproofing experience, please contact myself or Peter Ballard.

We have quite a few copies of the DVD that was playing during the evening and if anyone would like a copy, let me know. They are free for the asking!

The other great leap forward is that handicaps and results will now be fast tracked to our website with the aim being to have our midweek and other handicaps published well in advance of each race thus saving skippers a trip to the clubhouse door each week.

I am also compiling an archive of photos of Club yachts so if any of you have some that you would like to contribute, let me know. I can scan photos if necessary and digitise them. Yours will be returned promptly.

Vice Commodore Jim has rectified a couple of anomalies in the Winter Sailing Instructions so the Twilights will definitely be starting at 2.00 pm and the Wedding Cake mark is definitely yellow!!

Handicaps

Your Sailing Committee has resolved that this Winter Series handicaps will follow on from those applying after the last race of the Summer Series just completed. Next Summer will carry on from this same starting point. We feel that the two series are quite different and anomalies will exist if we just run on from one series to the next.

Weather Workshop

A lot of us use the Bureau of Meteorology Radar and forecasting site on the Internet and the Bureau is holding an information night at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club on Thursday 28th of May at 7.30 pm. Present will be John James, Julie Evans and Rob Webb who are senior meteorologists for the Hunter Region. Should be a very interesting night.

Last Saturday

Wow, what a day, a 35 knots at least gusty westerly with three yachts facing the starters, at least they tried to face them but occasionally had difficulty in facing in the right direction. The gathering of "concrete commodores" self included, adjacent to the caravan had plenty of advice to offer, some were just bored by the whole thing!



See you at the Bar! *John Way* 0412493586