



Ahoy !

From the Bridge!!

Last Saturday.. An interesting day! we had everything weather wise, rain, wind, calm, sunshine, heat, cold and a postponed start! Ended up a "soldiers course" with nearly all reaches but the Race Officer would have to be Old Huey himself to do any better!

One thing that I did notice was how a few yachts which were behind us started to get headed as they were sailing to the finish. The wind went to the west and they were forced to tack to clear the island. One thing that struck me was that when they did this, they sailed much too far. In a light shifty wind like we experienced at that time, you must stay away from the lay lines. (They are the course that you must sail to make the mark) Invariably, when yachts do this, they overstand and end up easing sheets to round it, miss the island, etc. Yachts really do not lose that much ground when they tack, not nearly as much as they lose when they are forced to sail too far.

We really notice this when we sail our North East courses when on the Wedding Cake leg. So many yachts sail for the Anchorage and then, when they tack, they find that they have been carried past the mark by the tide or because they went too far on the port tack anyway.

The point that I am trying to make is that if there is a favourable shift, you cannot take advantage of it if you do the above. Our breeze here tends to shift about 10 degrees every 10 to 15 minutes or so, and the trick to smart sailing is to pick these shifts and use them to your advantage. If you overstand, you cannot do this.

Whilst on this point, when you finally tack to round the mark, don't pinch to make it. If you forget about the mark and sail your boat fast, you may get that little shift. If you don't, you may have just enough speed to "shoot" head to wind to get around the buoy.

Discounts for Club Members. We have negotiated a 10 percent discount on all goods purchased from Nelson Bay Marine which is situated at the D'Albora Marina Building in Nelson Bay. Stephen Ryan the proprietor is a good bloke and if he does not have the item that you want he will do his best to obtain it for you as soon as possible. Could be very handy for antifouling and so forth.

Time checks when starting.

We trialed a new starting procedure on Saturday when our Starters broadcast a time check on both frequencies at approximately 1230 and 1245. This will enable skippers to check their watches against the starter's clock without having to call at the caravan or to try and check it against the clock at the front of the Clubhouse which does not have a second hand!! Worked well so we will keep doing it!

Some new ideas Not a bad idea to create a couple of check lists to keep on the boat. One for when you leave to go ashore noting such things as: Close seacocks, lock outboard, let off backstay, let off foot tension on mainsail, don't forget your keys, wallet, shoes etc. Can save a lot of rowing!

From the Board Meeting. As another trial we will be conducting the Commodore's Trophy Friday Evening Race on Friday the 28th of November. This will be a short course similar to Wednesdays but rounding West Bank instead of Salamander, handicaps similar to Wednesday, yachts finishing after 1800 will be disqualified! Trophy is a bottle of Champagne for each female crew on the winning yacht. To be presented at the Social that evening, if the winner is not present, the next place getter gets it!!! Notice of Race will appear soon. If this is a success, we may have some more during the summertime.

Many things were discussed as happens in Board Meetings!!! I don't have the space for some of them so you will have to make sure that you read next weeks FTB. Amongst other things, the new handicaps are on the board, all updated and Alan is happy to listen to any concerns!!!

Oar Storage We have several pairs of oars in the oar cupboard that are oarfans! No apparent owners. Put your name on them pronto as we will be moving the storage place shortly to enable us to have a burglar alarm installed in the Clubhouse. It is an oarful mess at the moment!

PLEASE: When you log on or off say: "Titanic Calling Club Starter on 94 or 77", I forgot last Saturday and as my wife was starters assistant on the day I received quite an earful later on.. I does make life a lot easier in the Caravan so PLEASE do it!

Happy Sailing.

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