



No 3 October 2009

The Yardarm

Used to be "From the Bridge"

3rd Edition 2009

A few more
Clarifications!

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The last Yardarm may have been a bit strong with the "Cast in Stone" quote but what I was trying to get across was that we now had some certainty in what was going to take place in our current Spring Summer Racing Season. Due to illness and a few other matters, the publication of the Summer Handbook was delayed until this week.

One of the matters that has been the subject of a fair bit of "apre race deck discussion" (ARDD) is the matter of the DNC penalty, now being the number of entries in a race on that day plus 5. I would like to point out how that decision came about.

DNC incidentally means "Did not compete" or, if you like, did not leave the mooring.

This decision was precipitated by discussion during a meeting of the Sailing Committee in September of this year. Concerns were noted regarding the old system of incurring the number of entries in a series plus one point for DNC. It was further discussed between members of the sailing committee, and the decision was made to try the 5 point system for this Spring Summer Season. This will include all races held from 3rd October 2009 until the 1st of May 2010 other than ocean races

As you no doubt know, last winter, and for some years past, the number of entrants in the Point Score started at around 22 and ended up at over 30. Thus any yacht DNC incurred a very significant penalty, more so at the end of the season as the numbers of entries built up because new boats joined our fleet.

We all know that there are about 6 yachts which will venture out, quite safely and comfortably, in anything short of a gale warning. However, the majority of our racing fleet probably draw the line at around 20 to 25 knots, due, no doubt, to the age of the skipper (and crew!) the boats, and, in many cases, the design of same.

Bearing in mind one of the aims of our Club is to get as many boats racing in our fleet as possible, we felt that the old DNC provision was a severe disincentive for yachts, that had missed a few heavy days, to compete when the weather was more favorable.

We will always get around 6 yachts sailing in heavy conditions, however, we have a potential of around 30 starting on "normal" (under 25 knot) days.

Thus, now, if a yacht DNC's on a "good" day, she could incur a 35 point penalty if 30 yachts start in that race! This will, surely, encourage all of our fleet to sail more often when everyone feels comfortable and should not disadvantage those who race every Saturday no matter what.

In quite a few of our series, such as, for instance, the Club Championship, 11 of the 13 races sailed in the whole series will now count. If you start in every race, you will still have a better chance of winning than if you don't, but, those who cannot will not be completely out of contention.

Lets see how it works. If, at the end of the season, the majority of skippers want a change, the Sailing Committee will most certainly consider it.

Sailing Committee Meetings:

Vice Commodore Jim Quinn has asked me to inform everyone that the Sailing Committee will meet at 10am on the 21st of November, the 20th of February and on the 24th of April.

If anyone has a matter that they would like discussed,, please put in writing and give it to the Secretary a week before a meeting so that it can be put on the Agenda.

Summer Twilights:

At long last, the winds calmed down, the rain held off, the temperature increased and yesterday saw the first of our long course Wednesday Races taking off at their nominal start time of 1400 hrs.

As we started in the short course series at nominal 1530, (1553 in our case!), we observed Alan Croft in "Remus" crossing the finishing line! Some hour and a half later we joined a merry band in the Clubhouse relaxing after their "long" race.

We shorties are looking for a "lengthen course" signal to safeguard the livers of the "long brigade"

Jack Holman Memorial Trophy

Saturday 7th November 2009

This is a magnificent Perpetual Trophy which will be awarded to the winner of the race held on this day which is also the 4th race in our Spring Point Score and the 4th Heat of the Club Championship.

The Race is held annually on the Saturday nearest to Jacks Birthday which was on the 4th November. It must include the Shoal Bay mark as part of the Course.

Jack was tragically killed in a car accident on 26th May 2003 leaving his wife Kerry and two daughters. His father Jack and his wife Daphne presented the Trophy to our Club for annual competition and the whole family will be here on the day.

Other trophies will also be awarded on the day.

Friday Night Socials: What better place to get the crew and partners together for a few drinks, a good feed and an early night before the intense competition of the Saturday Race Day. Bring them, and a plate to share, this Friday at 6.30 , and catch up, post mortem free!

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