



CPSC Newsletter August 2008

Dates for your Diary:

6 September—First warm up race

20 September—First Point Score race (all classes)

11 October—First Club Championship race (all classes)

I thought I would send out a short Newsletter to get everyone motivated for the 2008-09 Season. Winter is nearly over (not that it feels like it) and it won't be long before the new season begins. There is not much time left to do all those jobs on your boat that you promised yourself to get done in the off season. If you are like me you have had enough of this cold weather and are itching for some warm days and a chance to get your boat out on the river. Of course there will be those much keener (and no doubt younger than me) who have been sailing through the Winter and honing their sailing skills.

The AGM was held on 30 July. John McCathie, who has completed his three years as President, chaired his last meeting and John Bennett was elected our new President. Lois Wiseman who has worked closely with John McCathie over the past three years thanked John for the excellent contribution he has made as President. Among John's many accomplishments as President has been the renegotiating of our Lease with Kogarah Council. It has been a long drawn out process, requiring a good deal of his time and effort. It has been good to have a President from the Laser class and now a President from the Sabres.

I'm sure most of you are well aware of John Bennett's credentials. He has been a long time member of the club and was the Registrar for the NS14 association for many years. He was a NS14 Club Champion and now sails in the Sabre Class. He has also been involved with Rotary for many years. The club is fortunate to have someone of John's experience as our President.

John McCathie accepted a nomination to be our Vice President for 2008-09 and was elected unopposed. Lois Wiseman was re-elected unopposed as Treasurer. Once again we thank her for the great contribution she makes to the club and for keeping a watchful eye on the purse strings.

Christina Stuart was re-elected unopposed as Secretary. Christina mentioned in her annual report that she has been through a sharp learning curve and has learnt a lot in her first year as Secretary. She thanked John McCathie, Lois Wiseman and Susan Ritchie for their support during the year. We thank Christina for her perseverance and contribution to the club. It is great to see a young person putting their hand up for an important position and showing some innovation towards the younger members of the club.

Bill Bubb remains our Commodore and we welcome Jonathan Branch and Roy Wernick as Vice Commodores.

This season we have some different racing. We now have two short-course race days after the very popular trial day last season (thanks to a Karen and Jonathan Branch initiative). We also have a new knockout series (an initiative of Tim Dunstan), scheduled over three or four race days, based on handicap. This is an extra competition which will not affect the Club Championship or Point Score schedules. It will be run concurrently with the designated Point Score races. It is good to have input from our younger members.

Eric Wiseman

Presidents Report

Val Dixon and Jim Burrell

All of us were sad to learn that long standing members and friends of the Club, Val Dixon and Jim Burrell, had recently passed away following battles with cancer related illnesses. Some of us were able to attend their memorial services.

Val had been associated with the Club longer than most of us, supporting Alan, Ian and Robert in their sailing activities through a number of classes - Flying 11's, Moths, NS14's and Sabres. A regular behind the canteen counter, at club meetings and, of course, more recently on the Starters' Boat, Val was always ready to help in any way she could. We all knew Val could talk, but we all loved her for it. Conversations were always with humour and covered a range of topics, particularly as Val was an avid reader of the Sydney Morning Herald. On a personal note, Margery and I travelled with Val and Alan to a number of NS14 State and National Title Series and also spent happy times with them as subscribers to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra - a meal and bottle of wine always preceding each concert. We valued her friendship greatly as I am sure do all Club members.

Jim Burrell had been associated with the Club probably as long as Val and Alan. Jim was an avid NS14 sailor, initially as a husband and wife crew with his former wife Di, with aptly named boats, Dinki Di and Never Say Di. Later crews included his son Clinton and my own son Matthew. Jim was a former NS14 Club Champion and often joined the Dixons and Bennetts travelling to various events. Jim was always a newspaperman, as a sub-editor with the old Sun and then Editor of the St. George and Sutherland Leader. He had a way with words and wrote a number of humorous articles for the NS14 magazine and our own Club Bulletin. Jim also had a way with boat trailers, destroying garage doors and losing whole boats off the back because they weren't tied down. But his humour was such that he always had us laughing when re-telling the stories. In more recent times and up to the end, Jim continued his enjoyment of sailing with his partner Ann on their trailable yacht and could occasionally be seen following the Kurnell Cup fleet.

All the Club will miss both Val and Jim and we extend our sympathy to their families.

John Bennett