

COBRA TALES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Now that the season is over and the National, State and Club titles have come and gone, it's time to reflect on the 2003-2004 Cobra season, before we plunge into the depths of winter and start digging out the ski suits and warm woolies.

Congratulations to all who have competed this season. By the time you read this you will know who was successful, but I believe that in the wider sense, there were no losers this season. Some new boats came, some older boats stayed at home, but those who competed all had their own successes. We introduced a number of new crews and skippers to the joys and despairs of sailing and the influx of younger skippers bodes well for the future of the Association.

The lease boats continue their good work. Although Australia Who is to be retired, Wild Cat and Undercover will continue to provide introduction for new sailors to Cobras. Welcome to Daniel, Eric, Paul, David, Matty, Will, Ian, Johnny and Fiona who have all made their Cobra debuts this season

In the Club competition, there were four boats with the chance of taking out the Championship in the last race. The level of sailing ability and the intensity of racing have risen enormously this season and I don't think anyone can predict the placings for next season. The State Titles again provided a great competitive and social venue with some interesting results (see Marg's report for full details- thanks Marg) Everyone at Boga commented favourably on the way all the Cobra people helped each other on and off the water. (I have to say that I did my own bit by helping many skippers to achieve a much better result than I got!!). The new tops were a great hit and identified us to all other sailors as an important class – every bit of advertising helps, so spread the word wherever you can! If anyone wants Cobra logo tops, see me as I have some spares.

I have always said that our greatest strength is the camaraderie that exists within our class and is the major factor in ensuring the continued Cobra growth, so take a pat on the back everyone – skippers, crews, partners, supporters and friends and keep up the good work. Enjoy the break everyone and remember there are only 134 days to the next race!!!

Laurie

NOW QUITE A FEW OF US HAVE BEEN SAILING COBRAS FOR A LONG TIME
AND IT CAN BE EASY TO FORGET WHAT IT WAS LIKE SO MANY YEARS
AGO BEFORE THE URGE BECAME A PASSION THEN A SICKNESS SO JUST TO
REMIND YOU WHAT IT WAS LIKE

I was nervous because this was just my second time on a Cobra catamaran...

I knew a little of what to expect from the week before: scrabble back and forth under the boom while untangling and grabbing the right end of that jib sheet - pull like mad. Attach a ring to the harness and wobble out on the trapeze, make sure legs don't collapse and control all visible trembling, nausea and fear with jolly gusto.

It was a hot still day with a change expected. I overheard "we're in for a howler!" Oh, god, what's a howler? Floppy middle-aged woman trussed up and boiling hot about to set off into a possible howler - immediate course of action: vomit.

That done, I marched off to the water, cooled off and we set sail. I wobbled, trembled and pulled like mad again. The wind came up and there was only one thing to do - as close as possible to what the skipper was telling me.

It was truly amazing - speeding along with the wind and water tacking back and forth in that triangle in the sea until it was over. We didn't win the race, but I think I discovered a tiny bit of what this sailing business could be all about...

Thanks to Laurie and Colin

Fiona Lange

IMPORTANT NEWS:

At a recent committee meeting, Mike won a very hotly contested battle to become the new DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ! Congratulations are in order. Now you can ask what a development officer is. Simply put, if you feel that you need some advice or tuition either on or off the water, you can ring Mike and he will bring true your every desire. Now, I believe that Laurie has booked him for the first 4 weeks and

then Rick for the next 4. Why Rick you ask? He wants to throw Mike a few Red Herrings to pass on to the rest of us to keep us back in the pecking order. I hear people asking what qualifications Mike has for this prestigious and lucrative job. The simplest answer is to say, look at Chris's much improved results in the States, but more importantly, he didn't tip over in a major title, even in the really light stuff. So as they say in the classics, RING MIKE FOR A GOOD TIME.

COBRA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT LAKE BOGA

As usual the Cobra Team were keen to get up start the racing this year, with Johnny Bolton first off the mark arriving on Wednesday the 6 April, followed closely by Dave and Lisa Badrock. The weather was beautiful as usual.

The remainder of the Cobra team arrived over the next two days ready for an interesting series for racing.

Invitation Race (Race1)

Lake Boga put on a beautiful day for the race except there was no wind. The race was postponed hoping that the wind would build but not luck the race had to be abandoned. But wouldn't you know as soon as the race is abandoned the wind started to build.

Even although the race was a disappointment the evenings entertainment was provided by Malcom which kept everybody entertained (so Mal thought). The jokes were fast and furious with Stan and Colin copping with the brunt of Mals so called "funny" sense of humour and Meaghan being harassed with reference to "The Glen". Julie eventually confiscated the stash of alcohol and lead Mal away by his ear to the safety of his tent. Ann also provide some memorable entertainment with her enactment of her morning after Peter and Anne were married or did she say they had gone horse riding

Race 2-Saturday AM

The day started promising with 8 to 10 Knot winds. By the time the race had started the wind speed had dropped to around 5 knots. The race started with all Cobras getting of to a good start.

By the time most boats had managed to reach the second mark the wind had dropped to dead calm. After about 45 minutes of waiting for the winds to freshen the leading boats where dismayed to see that the rear boats had caught a breeze and were rapidly catching up. To bad for the boats who were in the front.

The course was shortened to one lap with a large bunch of Cobras crossing the line at once, with Malcolm the clear winner.

Race Results

- 1st Provocative
- 2nd Scream
- 3rd Speed Machine

Race 3 Saturday PM

Race was abandoned due to no wind

Race 4 Sunday AM

Race 4 was set for 9 am to take advantage of the early winds. But as usual the best laid plans!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!. By 11 am the winds were up and a great race was had by all

Race Results

- 1st Dreamworx
- 2nd Really Awesome
- 3rd Venom

Race 5 Sunday PM

By after noon the winds were great and it was decided two races back to back. By this stage we actual had waves on the lake and not just a few ripples.

Race Results

- 1st Dreamworx
- 2nd Scream
- 3rd Dream Machine

Race 1 Sunday PM

The started with a good strong breeze more like the competitors from Parkdale are use to.

Race Results

- 1st Dreamworx
- 2nd Provocatative
- 3rd Scream

Race 6 Monday AM

The race started at 9:30 PM with a light breeze.

Race Results

- 1st Provocative
- 2nd Dreamworx
- 3rd Really Awesome

RACE RESULTS (PRESENTATION)

The presentation commenced at the Boga Sailing Club. The presentation was kept to minimum. The results for the series were as follows.

- 1st Rick Nixon and Robbie Nixon
 - 2nd Malcom Winder and Maddie ????
 - 3rd David Badrock and Lisa Badrock
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AN EX-EMPLOYER OF MINE USED TO SAY THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS SIX SIDES TO EVERY STORY. THAT REPORT WAS FROM DEREK, NOW LETS SEE MARG HAS TO SAY.

2004 Victorian Cobra State Titles at Lake Boga

After an absence of 4 years, the Victorian Cobra Association returned to the Lake Boga Easter Regatta for its state titles.

Eleven boats participated, including 'Wildcat' the Association's class boat which was sailed by the brother and sister team of Daniel and Vanessa van Oosterom

It was encouraging to see a significant number of boats arrive at Boga on Easter Thursday, allowing ample time to set up tents, boats etc and follow this with a sociable dinner at the local pub in the evening.

The first day of the series was Good Friday and it started out promising enough with reasonable wind. However, by the start time of the Invitation Race, the wind had all but disappeared and with it the hopes of a group of sailors eager to get out on the water and begin competition.

The race was officially postponed at 3pm , so what other option was there for any self-respecting group of sailors and their entourage but to bring out the cheese, open the wine and while away a pleasant afternoon gazing over the lake.

Saturday morning we awoke to reasonable winds of approx 12 knots and good race conditions were anticipated, however by the race start time in the morning, the wind was significantly lighter and had all but dropped out by the 2nd leg of the race. A shortened course was signalled, and the finish line was nothing short of a traffic jam. It was quite impossible for officials to decide places without the assistance of the video replay and consultation with some of the boats involved.

The afternoon race of day 2 was a repeat of the previous day with no wind, and the race was officially postponed.

Easter Sunday began with an ominous lack of wind and the 9am race was rescheduled to 10.45. At this point a few mutterings about 'heading home' were heard, but shortly thereafter the stirring of leaves and movement on the lake had everyone back on full alert and busy donning wetsuits and making last minute boat adjustments in anticipation of the announcement which came through, stating the race was to go ahead.

This was an interesting although shortened race, with the positions changing frequently in the fluky conditions, but experience won out in the end, with Rick Nixon and his son Rob in Dreamworx coming in first. Chris Wells with Mike Lander (two grumpy old men) came in second on Really Awesome , followed by Colin Orchard in third place.

The wind continued to build and with it the prospect of back-to-back races for the afternoon sail. So off they headed in the afternoon, and what a magnificent sight! Cobra sailors in their rightful place – out on trapeze, flying a hull and some interesting placings with Rick and Rob coming in first, a delighted Lisa and David Badrock placed second and Peter Marsh and Julie coming in third after a disappointing finish in the previous race. Now the challenge was really down for the second of the back-to-back races, as most boats in the fleet had shown themselves to be competitive.

The third race for the day experienced stronger wind conditions, allowing for the first full-length course of the series. Not such a good start for Chris and involving going over the line early and taking Rick Nixon over with them resulting in a recall for both boats . Once again, positions changed frequently with small errors of judgement costing dearly with the final outcome of Dreamworx in first place followed by ProvoCATive and another white boat (David and Lisa)coming in third.

Monday morning proved another beautiful sunny day with the bonus of strong, steady winds and eager sailors set about their last minute 'go fast' adjustments. The placings changed little throughout the race, with a well deserved win by Mal followed by Rick with Chris in third position

It was successful series on many levels. The boat numbers were encouraging; the officials at Lake Boga managed the ever-changing racing schedules with a common sense approach that was appreciated and both sailors, and their "support teams" enjoyed great company (along with great wine)

Marg Lander





STOP PRESS

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE NON SAILING SEASON

Put these dates in your diary!!! (and don't pretend that you weren't told)

Full details or changes will be sent to you closer to the dates.

June 20TH - *AGM* Parkdale YC

July 11th - *TEN PIN BOWLING* – Come and enjoy the delights of bowling at Forest Hills. Meet at the Badrock Café for BBQ lunch and then bowl afterwards at the new Forest Hill bowl.

August 1st -- *MUDPUDDLE TROPHY* (revisited) Car Rally – Starts at Kangaroo Ground Riding Club grounds .

August 15th - *SKI DAY* – Mt Buller. All day, early start – for beginners and experienced alike – Package includes

*Luxury coach ex Melbourne (P/U at Spencer St or Box Hill or Ringwood)

*Choice of unlimited all day lift ticket or discover skiing limited lift ticket with 2 hour beginners lesson.

- *Mt entry fee
 - *Skis, boots and poles
- Expected cost \$165 adult, \$108 kids (6-14)

See Lisa or Laurie for details

WE LIKE TO SAVE THE BEST FOR LAST, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE HEAVY HAT OF EDITOR HAS DRIED THE INK IN COLIN'S POISONED PEN.

But just as a parting thought, it is comforting to discover that with a wink and a smile, that when Laurie says to Kerry, well dear, I think its about time to take the car fridge for a drive, we all know what he means.