



**COBRATALES  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 07**



**Australian Cobra 2006-07 National Championship, Long Jetty  
(Tuggerah Lakes), NSW**

FROM THE EDITOR

Here it is, the newsletter you've all been waiting for. The compilation has been months in the making. To kick it off here's a note from the pres'

FROM THE PRESIDENT

You should now be aware if reading your emails that the VCCA is organising the National Titles for this coming Christmas. This will be again be held with the Stingrays' and will be at Speers Point on Lake Macquarie near Newcastle from December 29th 2007 to January 4th 2008. There will be cheap camping around the yacht club and it is always a great social time so if you have a Cobra or can beg, borrow or steal one then we look forward to seeing you there. The early bird entry fee ends 30 November so hopefully you've heeded your email reminder.

Some Cobra's have continued to experiment with spinnakers. There is still a variation of set-ups as each try to find the ideal way to run spinnakers on a Cobra. Whilst the courses we race at Parkdale are not ideal for running a spinnaker the results are very promising. Wes Miles is setting the bench mark although Dan Tonkes is pushing him hard. It does look good from a spectators view with all the different coloured spinnakers and comments have been positive from other Parkdale members and at the recent traveller series at Lake Hume. As far as Parkdale racing goes, to compete, as a Cobra in the races based on class (ie, championship) spinnakers will be ineligible however the relevant handicap (currently 3.1% on yardstick) will apply for the fleet races.

The challenge we face this year is finding regular crew. Many of the boats have had crews move away from sailing or into different classes to develop their own hand at skippering. If you know of anybody who wants to try sailing or interested in trying out as a crew then get them to turn up on any sailing Sunday in the morning.

Seasons Greetings to all and hope to see you at the Nats...

David Badrock



#### DIARY NOTES

Martha cove regatta - open invite to all weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2008, 12.25pm start contact Rick for more detail as this is all the info we have.

Safety beach yacht club  
Cash prizes  
Open to all boats

In the new year a reminder that David will be collating orders for cobra wear, so if you haven't caught up with the latest attire, keep some of your xmas money aside.

Mal's self-appointed fun day "go mal." 8<sup>th</sup> December. It involves Mal, some of his mates from swimming, a few locals and who ever wants to join in. There'll be sun, BBQing, boating swimming, the usual raving on and of cause some drinking. Fun begins at 11am.

#### SOCIAL REPORT

After the 06/07 VCCA AGM, 22 intrepid Cobra sailors and pit crew attended Mentone bowls to throw, heave or chuck a ball of resin at 10 defenceless pins. Laurie has set the benchmark in the past proving that he knows how to handle his balls with victories at this illustrious venue last year and a formidable display of lawn bowls at, a recent Nationals.

Two games were held with Rick Nixon having the highest aggregate with a score of 282, followed by Johnny Bolton 263 and David Gannon 243. The overall female champion was Lisa

Bolton on 241 followed by Sue Nixon 219. The highest, under 18 was Johnny Bolton, followed by Rob Nixon on 223. The Handicap winner was Laurie Bradford, 2nd Handicap to Sue Nixon and 3rd to Georgie Bolton. Kim and Mal set some early high scores (133 & 128) but went out on a high, not contesting the second game. (Mal probably lost count of how many games he completed). A fun time was had by all.

Lisa Badrock



## POISONED PEN

From the Skipper of Venom comes..... The Poisoned Pen or Amazing Stories that may have a shred of truth to them if you look really hard.

Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October was the first race day at Parkdale and while it was good to get back on the water, the day lacked a certain lustre and everyone seemed a little flat. It may have been caused by the lack of wind but I suspect more appropriately it may have been caused by the lack of WINDER. That's right, no Mal.

While everyone appreciated the lack of really bad puns and the teenage girls could rest easy that they would not be kept chatting in the toilets until the wee hours of the morning, never the less, it just wasn't the same. There was no-one doing stupid things, sailing the wrong course, not seeing a shortened course flag and dropping two places after having clawed their way up to second place. (Sorry John B. I almost forgot that you did exactly that!) You were using Mal's old spinnaker, so I guess that explains it. But the worst thing of all was that when some bright spark would make an anti-Mal joke, the butt (of the joke) was not there to purse his lips, suck in some air and respond with an incredibly lame reply. Some unkind person suggested that, as it was rumoured that he was suspected to be at a swim meet that day, perhaps he finds the viewing of women in swimming attire more pleasing than women in wetsuits, lifejackets and harnesses. An even more unkind person queried the narrowing down of the cause to the viewing of women. Come back Mal - we miss you.

Those of you that read the last Parkdale newsletter, will recall that our honorary Cobra Sailor, Ross, has developed quite an appreciation of, and an anticipation for, his daughter's ballet concerts. He has even proudly announced that he will be foregoing the PYC social highlight of the year- the Xmas party (where many a gifted amateur performance of Santa has been given), in order to attend the next exciting ballet production. Whilst engaged in conversation in "the inner sanctum" - the men's change room - where all the important negotiations are conducted, Ross learnt that I too have attended such cultural highlights when my brother was a dance student, and he became quite excited. He started talking about "trainee poofs" and such like, and although he is a respectable carpenter now, I believe all those years in the Army may have induced some serious repressions. Speaking of Ross, it has just dawned on me why he sails his training boat so far off the wind when

beating to windward. He wants to ensure that he does not interfere with the serious racers! It could also be that he does not want his ears – culturally attuned to the pleasures of classical ballet music – to be tainted by the sounds that emanate from boats that have mainsheet blocks tangle whilst tacking – particularly those with red lettering.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

Ross will be ecstatic. The club may be acquiring a midweek ballet school!

John O's crew, Heather, obviously could not stand the excitement of the conditions during the first race and left him to cope by himself during the second. Apparently on the water she talks a lot and John, after having had Jennifer and Kim as crew, in the words of Richard Stubbs, "Testify Brother, I feel your Pain".

Laurie's crew Sam is doing well, despite the fact that he was a little un-nerved when he saw the 1ft chop when he first arrived in the morning. "I've never sailed in waves that big" he said. Sam comes from Sugarloaf.

Something I couldn't quite work out. ¾ of the Badrock family were seen getting changed before the race together in the boat shed., not the change rooms. Were they planning tactics, admiring the view or cross-dressing?

Wes and Mandy are going unnaturally quick. I think we will have to nobble them. Perhaps get Heather or Kim to give Mandy some talking lessons!

On one leg of the course, Stan managed to cover twice as much ground as 3 spinnaker driven boats. We may have to nobble him as well. Get David G back on board. Just kidding David!

Trivia Quiz: Which Lisa was seen filling out what looked like a protest form BEFORE the race? Hint: she was using crayons.

Well that's all from me, unless the Editor's computer is still MALfunctioning after next week's race when I am sure lots of other Cobra sailors will want to come down so they can misbehave and get their name in print.

Colin Orchard

## WHERE'S WALLY? (I MEAN COLIN?)

Colin was taking Kim out for sailing lessons, he, he, he. Anyhow, I'm not sure if he told Kim to go left or right but they certainly went right upside down or was that left upside down? Colin being astute as he is brushed the incident aside and quickly turned the situation around to say, "that this was part of the learning process on how to sail a Cobra"? It's a shame he wasn't as quick getting the boat up because guess who just happened to be on the rescue boat with a camera? Kim said that it's the first time she has heard Colin swear on the boat, but I guess he can be forgiven because technically he wasn't really on the boat he was under it, mmm?

Now let's see if we can spot Colin and Kim in these photos?



Colin told Kim they were doing a roll tack, but didn't mean a 360deg. Roll when they tack. Sorry, no prizes for finding Wally, oh sorry I mean Colin, just a little antidote for the poison he scribes.

Mal Winder