



Victorian Cobra Catamaran Association

Cobra Tales

September 2003



We all know that Mal takes his sailing seriously. Recently he even overstressed his back doing push ups or something similar in order to get fit. It seems this dedication has rubbed off on Liam. One particular Sunday before Christmas Liam turned up obviously the worse for wear nursing a severe hangover (anyone who suggests that he caught this ailment from Meaghan is just a smut monger). When I asked Liam what had caused the state he was in he proudly announced, "I've been practising for the Nationals".

Colin's wetsuit had shrunk during the week, (well that is his story ed) However Jennifer who was trying to do up the zip was heard to say "You've put on weight, about 7kgs if I'm not mistaken". "Excuse me dear, whose put on 7kgs? I think it might be you!"

Now this exchange had snapped Laurie out of his daydream about being able to sail fast and he asked, "what is all the fuss about?"

"Oh just a minor domestic" replies Colin

"You haven't even got to the start line and its already happening" retorts Laurie.

"Well" replies Colin, "David and Lisa are not sailing today so somebody has to do it!"

Jodie seems to be giving Peter quite a wide berth down at the club these days. This might have something to do with the bruises he keeps giving her. Its hard to tell the difference from the ones she gets from sailing with him.

At Speers Point Greg seemed constantly fiddling with something in his shorts. He said it was a piece of string. I believe him, it seemed to be about that size!

There were no Taswegians holding chequebooks gathering around Rick's boat this year. We told him not to use Fullers glues to fix the holes in his boat.

During the Nationals a night was held at the local bowls club, a good cheap meal and drinks and a chance to try lawn bowls. It came as no surprise that Laurie had an age derived predisposition to the sport.

Mike Lander sure knows his rules: Rule 89d (i) When infringing rule 10 a skipper must not use his crew as a fender
Rule 89d (ii) When the crew is the skippers daughter rule 89d (i) does not apply.

I heard a rumour during the Nationals that during the latter part, Derek would hire a Ronstan/ Blue Dog cap to wear out to dinner. Confused? Just ask Derek for the full story.

Now I know that it is important for a plumber to look his best at all times but spending too much time on the shore selecting just the right sail to use can have disastrous results, particularly when the jib luff tensioner is going to break anyway. On ya Chris. Speaking of trying to look special see the photo below.



I hear that Robert (and Dan) is taking out shares in Nixon Rudders Incorporated. (I also think he has been using those glues provided by Mal to patch the holes in his hulls)

This was another presentation bought to you by 'Colin's poisoned pen'. The views contained within are not necessarily shared by the VCCA, at least not publicly.

By now everyone should have noticed the new secret Cobra. Over the period of the winter hibernation in his remote mountain hideaway, Colin (poison pen) Orchard has been labouring into the wee hours of the night preparing for his 2002/3 onslaught.

Taking the cutting edge technology of the American space programme, he has single handedly produced the latest and most extreme development in the Cobra class.

Codenamed (according to well informed sources) the "stealth" Cobra, it is an almost invisible, radar transparent weapon designed to slip through all defences and reappear only when it reaches the beach. According to my sources, the new boat doesn't even create splash, having been coated with the newly developed "soft" surface treatment which apparently absorbs water like a sponge, breaks down turbulence and releases the purified water through a black one way membrane cleverly disguised as a trampoline.

It appears that the boat has no signage as Colin has been unable to find anyone with the artistic and technological ability to make up an invisible name sticker (or has he?).

This is no doubt a great advance for the tireless Colin, but one wonders whether he has thought this through completely. After all, what's the point of having a-boat which is invisible when it goes through the finish line !!!!!

Ah well Colin - back to the drawing board.

IF YOU ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE YOU'LL ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT!! or HOW TO BEAT THE OTHER BOATS

As the title says, repeating the same actions in a race that weren't successful in the previous race will give you the same result.

"OK" I hear you all say, "what's the secret?"

The answer is that all the boats in the Cobra fleet are capable of beating every other boat. The difficulty comes in choosing what to do at the right time. Here are some things you might like to try:

1. Pick on the boat that was one place ahead of you in the previous race and do everything possible to beat him/her. Ignore the rest of the fleet - let them have their own battles. Don't consider the boat that is trying to catch you - let them worry about that.
2. Get into tacking duels; try altering downhaul, mast rotation, crew position, sheet position, jib block settings, jib sheet tension, sailing angle, centreboard angle etc. But do one at a time to test effectiveness. If it improves your position on the boat you are trying to catch, try to remember it for next time. If it doesn't help, move on to the next trial.
3. If you can remember what works, write it down when you get home - It's amazing how useful this becomes in the future, especially if you have my memory facilities!
4. Once you have beaten this boat, start on the next one in the following race and work your way through the fleet. Remember that none of the boats are more than a few minutes apart and just a small improvement will get you ahead (refer to my % chart in the previous newsletter)
5. Once you are ahead, do not allow them to overtake - cover, cover, cover!!!!

Next thing to do is decide in advance what type of sailor you are - Conservative or Gung-ho? Conservative sailors sail within their abilities, don't fall over, and most times don't break things. Extreme sailors keep their boats near the point of no return as much as possible, try the wild thing in 20 knot "breezes", love to crash and either win by a mile or get towed home

To decide which category you fit into, complete the following questionnaire, and rate yourself on the scale. From 0-5

1. Are you determined to race even when the waves are hitting the sea wall?
2. Would you call starboard on a cargo ship in the shipping channel and expect it to give way?
3. If Derek decides to do a port start, do you still insist on doing a starboard start?
4. Does the sound of breaking masts excite you?
5. Would you fly a hull over a windsurfer?
6. Do you have no fear of red boats?
7. Do you think that having two hulls in the water makes you go slower?
8. Do you enjoy Colin's Poison Pen articles?
9. Do you think that wet suits are for wimps?
10. Do you believe that you can beat Rick?

If you scored:

TOTAL

Over 50 - Take out a bigger insurance policy.

40 - 50 - Buy a Tornado.

30 - 40 - Stay with the Cobras but don't expect to beat Rick.

20 - 30 - Buy an Arrow.

10 - 20 - Buy a ramp or lift to help you get on the boat!! **0 - 10** - Stay home, watch telly and read Colin's articles.

Below 0 - Buy a windsurfer.

Good sailing and have fun,

Laurie

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well in my brief reign in this position & given the time of the year, there isn't a lot to report on, but rest assured that life in the cobra world has been bubbling along.

Since the start of the year, the nationals organising committee has been meeting regularly, consuming Tim Tams and making vitally important decisions on the directions that this year's nationals will take.

Unless you have been living under a rock you will know that the venue is Toukley Sailing Club on Lake Tuggerah, N.S.W., (only a few K's south of Speers Point) & the dates are Dec 28 2003 – Jan 2 2004.

Of course it is vitally important that we support these nationals as your involvement has a measurably direct effect on the continued growth of our class. If you are going to the nationals, talk someone else into it. Remember, only one person can win but everyone can have a good time.

Keep your eyes on your e-mails as important information regarding accommodation at the Nationals has been sent out. If you haven't got it yet contact Alison Wells on 9435 7453 asap. The Notice of race and entry form are on the Web Site.

Speaking of good fun, our Cobra navigation drive on Aug. 17 was an outstanding success with everyone involved insistent on a repeat performance next year. After 2.5 hours of driving over very interesting terrain and solving numerous problems, David, Lisa and Mandy Badrock were declared the winners by only a small margin over Rick & Sue (who probably had too many other people in their car) and Chris & Ali who should have done better as they live in the area. Mal and Julie went the wrong way yet again while Colin & Jenny were unable to explain the fact that they took an hour longer than any one else to complete the course. The two new Cobra owners from Rosebud made the long trip to Warrandyte and although we hope their sailing skills are better than their driving skills (they finished with the same points as Mal), they had a great time and we hope to see them again.

We can expect to see a few new boats at the club this season and our fleet numbers a possible 22 cats if everyone shows up. This gives us easily the largest single class fleet on the Bay and provides a great interest for spectators, some of whom have become Cobra sailors & crews.

Speaking of crews, a number of boats (including mine) are without crews as yet so if you know of anyone who wants to experience the joys of sailing on a Cobra, bring them along. We also again have free lease Cobras for anyone wanting to learn, so pass the word around & send prospective participants my way for further details.

Finally, a few words of thanks to Mal and Julie for organising the recent Cobra dinner, to David for his work on the State titles (it wasn't his fault that there was no result) and most of all to Chris for his continuing hard work over the past few years as President.

Good luck in this seasons sailing and don't miss next year's Cobra A.G.M.

Laurie.

Well that's about all for this issue although it may interest you to know, that the until recently, most recalcitrant luddite of our association in relation to information technology actually majored in computer science at University. However in those days (late 70's) they were powered by mice on treadmills and rubber bands. Having reacquainted my self with them, I still find them to be incredible time wasters and infuriatingly perverse.

COLIN.