



**COBRA TALES
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY
2007**



PRESIDENTS REPORT

It is hard to believe we are nearly half way through the sailing season. It has been good seeing at least 12 Cobra's regularly sailing at Parkdale although we do not seem to be able to get the numbers at other events. Only five boats attended the opening round of the traveler series at Lake Mokoan and because of lack of enthusiasm (probably because of distance) the second event planned for Lake Wellington was sailed at Parkdale. Four Cobras' were the only Parkdale representatives at the Long Beach regatta sailed at Mordialloc. Unfortunately there are only 6 Victorian boats venturing to the Nationals this year. This could be an interesting year as Scotty is still building his boat and Glenn Dale's crew of the past few years has moved onto skiff's so there may be a chance this year of a title coming to Victoria. We now have 4 boats trialling spinnakers, Wes, Brian, Colin and myself. They certainly

make the downwind legs exciting although they don't appear to be suited for the courses run at Parkdale. At the Long Beach regatta which was sailed over a much bigger area in approx 10 knots although the breeze did die out later, Wes managed to beat the Taipans. Wes also showed that you shouldn't put them up when its blowing 15 knots with a big sea. After trialling a boat through the lease system it is good to see Brian and Val on the water in their own boat and Brendan also buying out one of the lease boats. The interest in Cobra's continues to be strong with many enquires every week. The current lease boat is leased and we have people on a waiting list so we are seeking to buy another boat when one becomes available.

All the best for the festive season

David



PLACE	SAIL No.	NAME	SERIES SCORE	RACE 5	RACE 4	RACE 3	RACE 2	RACE 1
1	574	DreamworX	6	1	1	1	1	2
2	560	Venom	11	4	2	2	2	1
3	579	Kwitchabichan	16	2	3	4	3	4
4	561	Scream	17	3	4	3	4	3
5	670	Definitely Maybe	28	6.00C	5	6.00C	5	6.00C
<i>(LOW POINT SCORING SYSTEM, TOP YACHT)</i>								

TRAVELLER SERIES 1 REPORT

When the tell tales are pointing down and dragging in the water you know its fantastic sailing weather! And as always our cobra sailors at the Lake Mokoan Rose Festival Regatta were bright and chirpy as usual even if it was a sun burnt sheen or suitably adjusted alcohol levels.... What to do about Ric, Hmmm carefully avoiding all sailing hazards except maybe leaks?

But firstly, of course we had the age old discussion : Mosquito Vs' Cobra, until about midnight on the first night (and we agreed cobra's are better by far); Then the next morning grizzled about the wetted area of a speedy paper tiger in zero wind conditions, perhaps that's what happened to traveler No 2? Congratulations to Lake Mokoan sailing Club for their 25th Anniversary at the weekend. It was most interesting to hear about the passion their long participating members have for their club. Thank you for hosting yet another terrific event.

In our future inland lake sailing events we had better make sure the cheque sent with the wind order doesn't bounce! (RESULTS ABOVE) With Ric and Rob experimenting with their sailing technique where rob traps forward on the leeward side, we weren't sure if they were trying to tempt a gust into giving rob a dunk or to reduce their wetted area! Either way, their performance was unmatched, *even* when Dave and Wes received a 90 degree lift while on port to leave Ric stationary miles past the line on starboard only 50m away, and all of us heading in the same direction! *I thought I liked these conditions.....?*

Col and Kim, hmmm. Let's start an inquest into Venom's hull's surface roughness and his batten shape. Col and Kim had good consistency the unpredictable conditions. We are still trying to work out where Dave and Lisa hide their motor, maybe they make sure they are at the back of the fleet when its fired up, excellent sailing in tough conditions!

Wes and John, consistency, we didn't learn that at school, but our 'bad luck' ;) was balanced out, we were the only cobra sailors who got 2 out on trap on the same side of the boat the whole weekend. We found some wind after the race was cancelled of course! Andrew Defiantly showed an increase in speed over the weekend, Maybe it was because of the red belly black snake that swam past his boat during the race, yeah they were both heading in the same direction! The brains trust got together and worked a bit of magic over the battens in his sail that night, to unleash the rippling power of the wind...

Gossip:

Colin's offer to Rob of a pre race burger and chips was (sadly) declined. Perhaps Col, we should consider Rob's growth spurt to be a continuing success, and we should now focus on Ric, he likes pies doesn't he? Kim allegedly said "Gee Col, those paper tiger sailors talk a lot!..."; a lot can be heard on the still, quiet lake Kim.

Are we talking about Kim's lost and found ring? Late on night 2 Kim thought it would be a great idea to swap her diamond ring for a tent peg in the grass, but then successfully thought the better of it the next morning, with help from Dave and Wes.

And Ric... What do we all need to learn about 4mm, 6mm, and 8mm foam in 'A' class hulls? Apparently Kevlar is a waste of time, maybe the carbon stops them leaking.

Some how Ric, Dave and myself had a 3 boat pile up at the wing mark, I think my fault as usual, and letting a meter of spinnaker pole overlap the back of ricks boat was unnerving "hands off it ric!! Where are the brakes on this thing"

Thankyou to Craig Allen for kindly spending an afternoon as our photographer, please let me know if you would like a copy of the C.D. of pics, our association is welcome to use them for promotion.

Wes Miles

*From The Skipper Of Venom
Comes The Poisoned Pen*



**COLIN'S POISONED PEN
STRIKES AGAIN, ... AND
AGAIN, ... AND AGAIN AND
OH THAT FELT GOOD.**

I guess by now that your all tired of having Mal feature in every addition so I thought just for once that I'd leave him out but the editor is screaming for more column inches so here we go again.

There is no doubt that Maddie is a good crew. You just have to look at Mal's performance since she has been unavailable, to prove this fact. He tried sailing one up with unfortunate results. He tried with Jamie and Kate's son but still no cigar. He is still working on the principal of less is best and rumour has it that he has purchased a set of kitchen scales – zero to five kilograms with which to audition young hopefuls. It is also true that

all the local hospitals have placed an intervention order on him preventing him from attending their maternity wards. ---He only wanted to borrow one!

Recently Tess Lloyd sailed with him and did particularly well given the conditions. Rumour has it that Santa will not be giving her any lollies this year as she failed to assist him to capsize in 20kt winds.

We all know how misfortune manages to fall into Derek's lap.

There was the time that the trailer came unhitched and crashed into the wall along side the ramp. And the time he reversed the car into the same bit of wall. Then there were the termites in the house and the gate post at Speer's point. Well now he has acquired a speeding fine! So what I hear you ask, quite a few people manage that. Ah yes, but who else could manage it whilst having the presumed immunity of driving a police car at the time. Well done Derek! Information courtesy of Gay – Derek's wife.

Lake Mokoan as with many inland lakes can suffer from the occasional lack of breeze. Some skilful light weather specialists can use this to advantage and I heard recently of one boat that when the start gun went off in the invitation race was facing the wrong way and took 5 minutes to cross the line due to a rogue wind shift. However this was all part of the cunning plan.

Half the fleet had drifted to the left of the lake and the cows on the nearby shore were swishing their tails to keep the flies off – verdict, no wind.

The other half of the fleet had tacked off to the right and the horses on that bank were rolling in the dust which was rising vertically- no wind.

However the rabbits on the shore dead ahead were sitting up on their haunches sniffing the sweet smell of new spring grass in the valley beyond, carried to them by 3.5 kt zephyrs that were about to come down the centre of the lake. By carefully directing the hot air emanating from the motor mouth of the crew (yes its legal , refer IASF case 201b), the skipper was able to propel the boat into the new stream of air and reach the first mark and ultimately the first place . Others would try to follow but none would succeed.

Now not all boats were that successful and David and Lisa fell into this category and into every hole that the lake had to offer and consequently managed a convincing last. As you know they are a happy go lucky pair and nothing seems to phase them but this experience was too much for even their gentle dispositions. At this point it is relevant to remind

...but wait **STOP PRESS**

Which Cobra skipper has been sighted trying to coax young children onto his boat by offering them boiled lollies?

Could it be someone who has a reputation for preferring the underweight crew? An experienced race watcher (because children getting

you of the prominently displayed name of their boat – KWITYABITCHEN- and I have been unable to ascertain whether this is directed at the crew or any competitors who may be jealous of their usual success.

Now after the race I passed David who was lost in thought as how to improve subsequent results, followed shortly by Lisa who was muttering and cursing in a most agitated manner. “Call that a race, no bloody wind, should be called off under 3 kts , how do you expect us to sail in that shit. After hearing all of this I asked, Lisa, What’s your boat’s name? She turned and replied, “Up your arse!” Looks like another name change.

That one should look good printed in large letters down each hull.

Well because you’ve all been behaving yourselves or at least remembering to misbehave where and when I can’t find out, that’s all till next time.

married and overseas brothers needing to be entertained have kept him from sailing his boat), commented that this skipper’s performance seemed to drop off later in the race. Perhaps these boiled lollies need to be sustained energy release so these miniature crews don’t run out of steam too early.

Speaking of crews and sustenance, I

am reminded of a verbal exchange which happened on the water at lake Mokoan. Due to the freak correlation of tidal influence, erratic wind shifts, a partial eclipse of the sun and the moon being in the seventh house, a certain light weather specialist found that his boat parked itself at the top mark and even though they had been miles behind, a couple of boats managed to slip through. One of them was being sailed by Rick and Robbie who as you know are ever willing to capitalize on the totally undeserved misfortune of others. Due to the execution of some black art they managed to get even further ahead and so to try and restore some last vestige of the natural order, the light wind specialist attempted to get Robbie to sail back round to the proper part of the course by offering him a hamburger and chips (Robbie is a growing lad and has a primal need – FEED ME NOW). Alas it was in vain, however Rick commented that if a coke had been offered as well then Robbie would have caved in. Rick now has a new sail with more power to cope with the increased mass of the movable ballast at the pointy end and if Cobras carried identifying insignias on their sails then this one should have a large hamburger.

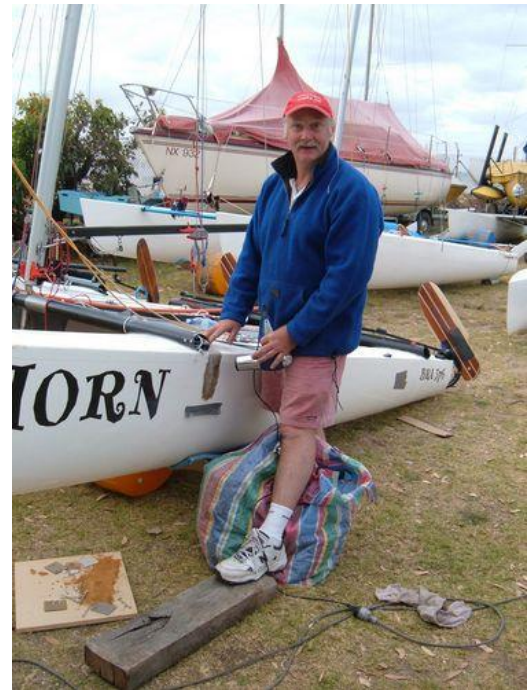
Move over Derek the Destroyer, we now have Stan the Slayer. Not content with punching a large hole in his own boat, he has lashed out and reeked havoc on Brian and Val's boat Dream On. He was last seen facing up to Mordialloc Pier. This may explain what happened to Parkdale pier.

John Bolton is in breach of Parkdale Yacht Club standing order 53b part ii

NO GOLLIWOGS

Wes has discovered that when you two wire flying a kite, run into the back of a wave, you capsize and the mast hits the seabed at mach 3, something has to give. With the mast prebend he has now, the downhaul is redundant.





COBRA CLASSIFIEDS:

(If you have that unwanted something, that old boat, a wetsuit that fit really well last season, or want that go fast gadget or something then place your ad' here in the Cobra Classifieds!)

FOR SALE

**Ford EA station wagon, auto, dual fuel, reg till April no RWC suit painter or other trade
310 000 k's FZO659 \$900 ono
call Nick on:**

9887 7643 or 0425 713 107

editors note:

don't forget the bargains in the classifieds above