

S.A.S.C. NEWS

This news sheet has now been in existence since November, 1960. The information it contains is largely the result of contributions by various correspondents nominated for each division. Our current correspondents are: E.J. Merrington, D.W. Gale, S.A. Wheeler and F. Collins. However, we would like to remind all members that any news is welcome and can either be channelled through one of these correspondents or J.L. O'Donnell, the Club's Publicity Officer.

As the end of the first half of the season approaches, the Commodore Flag Officers and Committee wish to extend a Happy Christmas and good sailing in the New Year to all members.

The handicappers, who are always in trouble with someone, are to be congratulated on the results obtained on Saturday, 25th November, 1961, when Arinda, Eventide, Eillom, Eastwind, Lady Luck, Degra, Thurloo, Questing and Vagrant crossed the finishing line within five minutes. The starter says it is no fun clocking in nine boats in five minutes which, on this occasion, included firing three guns. To make matters even more difficult, two of the guns were fired and eight of the boats crossed in three minutes. This result reflects great credit when it is remembered that the outgoing tide on this afternoon ebbed at least two knots faster than normal, due to the very large fresh water content from the flood rains of the previous days.

Wathara, skippered by B. Cameron, just home from a trip abroad, was sailing very nicely the other Saturday.

The attention of all skippers is directed to the following:-

1. As a trial the starter has been instructed to "Sail the A. & B. courses on alternate Saturdays except in Easterly-Westerly or very bad weather".
2. Future Racing Programmes will indicate that - any change of "Regular Skipper" to be notified to starter before race or to Hon. Racing Sec. within 48 hours of conclusion of race.
3. Points will be awarded to the "Regular Skipper" who may nominate from his regular crew an alternative skipper in his absence.

On Saturday 18th November, the 60 m.p.h. easterly gale caused all races to be abandoned. One of the unluckiest skippers of the day was Nick Cassim. After colliding with Waitere, Ondine ran for shelter at Darling Harbour where the crew repaired a broken crosstree. Mirrabooka joined Ondine there with a torn mainsail and, after two unsuccessful attempts to beat home, the two boats ran to Drummoyne and hired moorings. The strong current in the flooded Parramatta River caused Ondine to drag her mooring during the night and drift on to the new bridge works where steel rods punctured her planking in several places before she was taken in tow and tied up securely.

Two more Daydreams, Warren Anderson's "Sue" and Peter Ray's "Shiralee" have joined second division with the object of discovering if they like Harbour racing as much as J.O.G. races. George Brackenbury's new Daydream will be launched about Christmas time and will race with number 2 division next season. It would be accurate to predict that, in the not too distant future, S.A.S.C. will have a Daydream Division. There are at least a dozen boats on the Harbour at present and they will provide as good racing as the Bluebirds and much better cruising facilities than their smaller sister.

Cliff Gale has been in hospital since the end of October, suffering from an acute attack of arthritis. He is very cheerful and making good progress and is determined to be back at the tiller of the "Ranger" in the new year.

Bill Gale's wife, Lee, produced a healthy male offspring on the 30th October and it is hoped that he will also be obsessed with sail-boating.

Lady Luck, skippered by John Jackson, is showing the second division how it is done; she is now a very hard nut to crack in both heavy and light weather. H.G. Uther's fine little vacht "Arinda" is now going very well scoring a win in the hard going

racing in the 3rd Division has been very keen and, with the varying conditions so far this season, every boat has been a potential winner. This situation has no doubt been assisted by the good handicapping. Veteran, Joe Punch, is showing the way by notching up points with a very consistent performance in Vagrant. Others sailing well are Phantom and Cirrus. Cirrus appears to have a magnet fitted to her keel and has homed twice on the South Reef gas buoy so far this season.

Tony Wheeler is going to Hobart in Lauriana again this year.

A unique event in Sydney Harbour is being organised by the Royal Motor Yacht Club of New South Wales (Rose Bay.) It is intended to do a tour of Sydney Harbour, leaving their Marina at 8 p.m. with all ships decorated with festoon lights. On board three or four of the largest cruisers, bands will play Christmas Carols and Junior Choirs will give vocal renditions. Any S.A.S.C. yachts who care to join this procession will be welcome.

For those interested in the America's Cup Challenge preliminary arrangements for travel to Newport, Rhode Island, in September with hotel accommodation in Newport and facilities to view the races reserved should ring 27-7562, Mr. P. Wingrove, for details. Newport is 200 miles from New York and accommodation is limited. Hotel or any residential accommodation is, therefore, even at this stage, difficult to obtain.

"Ramu" is back once again with the Bluebird Fleet. Purchased earlier this year by Col Smith and Keith Moss, she has just had an extensive refit and will be a regular starter for the rest of the season.

Barry Menser who sold "Sprite" recently is back with the "Bluebirders" as skipper of Tony Baddon's boat "Spagoni Too".

Alan Shaw, for'ard hand in "Bolero" was married to Miss Elizabeth Fraser on November 11th. This explains "Bolero's" absence from racing on that date - they were all at the wedding. Alan had to consult the racing programme before setting the date. Rumour has it that he was forbidden to marry on a Point Score day!

The Bluebird fleet is still increasing. Latest addition to the Division is Keith Murray's "Lady Nelson" A17, which brings the strength to nineteen boats.

Bad luck continues to dog Des Van Aalst of "Sea Witch". Damage sustained in a collision with a Dragon during the gale on November 18th will probably put him out of further racing until the New Year. Des has been one of the most consistent starters in the Bluebird Division.