



S.A.S.C. Newsletter

SYDNEY AMATEUR SAILING CLUB LIMITED



OLD GAFFERS' DAY

On Sunday 19th October 1975, the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club held what is known as "Gaffers Day" for yachts which hoist a main-sail spar.

The Club had previously held a Gaffers Day in 1972 following the Centenary Celebrations, and there is no doubt everyone is looking forward to the next such event. From the comments, it is possible next time that we may even have boats from interstate.

So you will have some idea of a gaff main, it is not triangular in shape as is the Bermudan, but has four sides, the upper one attached to the end near the mast (the throat) and a peak halyard attached to a wire bridle on the gaff, which has a slide which assumes different positions according to the peak. By means of these two halyards the gaff is hoisted and the sail with it.

When hoisting, it is necessary to keep the gaff horizontal until the luff of the sail is taut. The gaff is then peaked up using the peak halyard and the two halyards adjusted so that the sail sets correctly and there are no creases or folds in it.

Mosman Bay was a spectacle with yachts and spectators, and the atmosphere was exciting, being enhanced by those who came along dressed in period style. The elegance and grace of the ladies contrasted with the cut-throat appearance of some of the sailors!

Ten vessels were moored at the Club wharf so that the charm of 'vintage' boats could be seen at close quarters.

- PLAYMATE OF MALDEN - A 33ft gaff topsail cutter built in England in 1896.
- RANGER - SASC A1, raised deck gaff sloop
- FIONN - A beautiful yacht, owner built.
- EDELWEISS - A vintage steam launch.
- NAVY I - Navy Montagu whaler
- NAVY II - Navy Montagu whaler
- SAO - A gaff rigged cutter, built 1905
- KELPIE - 30ft gaff-rigged cutter, built 1893.
- JUNE BIRD - Gaff-rigged sloop built abt. 1919.
- PUFFIN - A yacht's motor-tender, cared for with tender loving hands.

Those who saw the Navy I Montagu Whaler arrive at the Club with the crew dressed in the old style navy uniform must have been stirred by the sight.

The Flag Officers of the Club, visiting Flag Officers and some 400 members, their ladies and friends crowded

the clubhouse, wharf and surrounding area.

The Club was honoured by the attendance of the then Minister for Police & Services, Mr John Waddy, OBE DFC M L A, accompanied by Mrs Waddy.

FIONN, the Virtue class yacht skippered by Chris Larrewyn, was presented with a holystone by Mr John Waddy, the prize for having the best scrubbed deck!

The Club is very fortunate in having as friends Beryl and Les White, former SASC members. They very kindly made available their very modern motor cruiser KATHLEEN to enable the Club to entertain our guest of honour, visiting Flag Officers and their ladies.

As the KATHLEEN followed the race, past Commodore John Jackson was able to keep everyone informed about the various yachts competing. At the end of the day, Les entertained the group with recollections of happy days at the SASC when the Clubhouse was purchased, and how members including Les himself, worked to make the main club room what it is today.

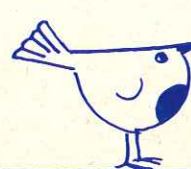
To Beryl and Les - our sincere thanks!

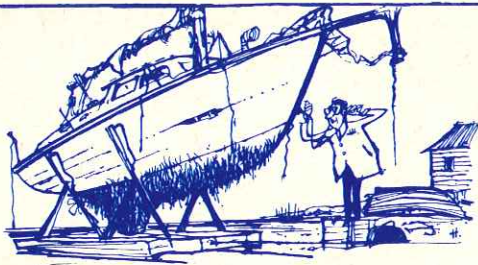
TARA IPO, a beautiful craft skippered by Club member Captain Alan Norton-Smith - on the starting line and bedecked with flags - what a magnificent sight!

To enable members and their friends to see the races in comfort, the Club arranged for the M.V. BENELONG, operated by the Australian Cruising Services in Rushcutters Bay, to load up at the Club wharf after those boats taking part in the Gaffers Race had departed, and a large crowd was able to follow the events of the afternoon in comfort. A commentary on the boats competing and on what was happening was given by Roger Gale of SASC.

There were 34 entries for the races and they presented a marvellous sight in full sail. NERIDA, a beautiful gaff topsail cutter 45ft overall, built in Sth Australia in 1934 and skippered by Jim Hardy of America's Cup fame, showed us how these yachts can sail.

Commodore Brian Woods has already thanked those members who worked so hard to make the day a success, but some special mention must be given to Bill Gale, SASC, who skippered RANGER A1 in the race. For months prior to Gaffers Day, Bill toured Sydney Harbour looking for yachts and vintage craft to take part. He organised for Pittwater to be checked out, he wrote letters asking owners to participate. Information had to be obtained for the programme, publicity arranged for, queries had to be answered - and he still arrived at the SASC looking immaculate.





Waste not, want not

- we can sell anything for you....

FOR SALE & WANTED

FOR SALE - Mailsails 34.5ft luff 11.5ft foot - selection of two
Jibs 25ft luff, 8ft foot - selection of four
Spinnakers 28ft luff, 22ft foot - one only

Prices from \$25.

Colin Crisp's Bargain Basement
Ptes: 90-1774 Bus: 929-0255

FOR SALE - Inside ballast - 6 lead ingots about 50lb ea.
Halyard wire - 30' 1/8" dia. s.s. 7 x 19 flex, unused. \$2.50
Cotton sails - assorted, off 26' sloop
John Bisset 969-4208

WANTED - Dacron stormjib - about 33 sq ft, 12ft luff x 6 x 11
Compass - Grid type on bracket for mounting on cockpit side. "Saura" DG 75 L or equivalent.
John Bisset 969-4208

WANTED - big bronzed typical Aussies for working bee in searing heat back o' Mudgee any time over Christmas holidays. Within 5 miles of olympic swimming pool & 7 pubs. See N.K.



The office will be closed from 10th December until 12th January for annual holidays. Tony Ashleigh will be on holidays from 24th December until 12th January.

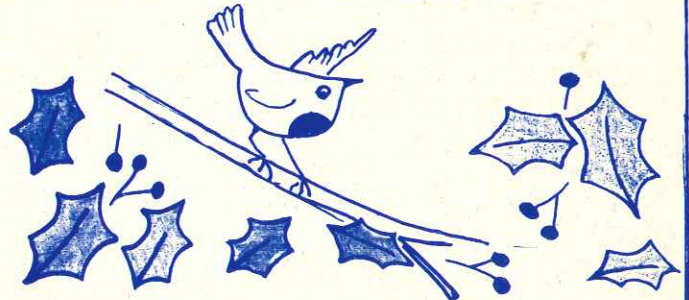
First race in the New Year - 17th January (Club)

RANSA Regatta - 24th January

THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING FOR
DECEMBER OR JANUARY



The Commodore, members of the Board and staff join in wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and a brighter prospect for 1976.
Good sailing !!



Remember... you can plan ahead book ahead...



BUT NOT THIS TIME.....

A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE CLUBHOUSE -



Friday 12th December 1975

that is, *this* Friday.

Commencing at 8.30, through to 12.30 - a buffet meal will be catered for by Millers (remember last Christmas..?)

\$6.50 per head - tickets at door.

DRESS: Informal

Numbers will be limited to 70, so please ring us now and advise how many in your party - yes,

Now!

Bookings will be taken - at the Club 90-1433 until 4pm Wed 10th December - between 9am-4pm Thursday ONLY on 36-1765

An excellent three-piece group will be playing for your enjoyment..

Come along and help renew the Christmas spirit.....

