

# Hit the Mark!

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN J24 ASSOCIATION

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## The Australian Championships, Sandringham Yacht Club, 6-10th Jan 2013

Just in case you've been in a coma, the Nationals were bigger than Christmas. The J24 Vic Association had 23 entries from Sydney, Adelaide and even Cairns. This event has been reported by Simon Grain in his usual excellent manner on the national web site so I won't go into detail here but will extend a huge well done and congrats to Arthur Corrothers and helmsman Ben Lamb in winning their first Australian Title and of course to our own Adam Evans coming in forth place as top Victorian.

Well... the social side was just as brilliant. I wish I could remember half of it. A welcome barbie on Saturday... Caribbean Calypso night Tuesday, both very well attended and much enjoyed. The Presentation night was easily the best one I've ever been to. Apart from the winning trophy the highlight was the best ladies' bruise, sponsored by Hershell Landes, this spontaneous competition saw one

female crew member from Adelaide drop her pants on stage to show off a bit of a bruise on her upper thigh. Now, I'll be honest, and I was pretty close to the action, the bruise wasn't the biggest in the room but the dropping of the pants was a masterstroke and the expensive bottle of wine was easily won. To thunderous applause. (Mop my sweaty brow someone!!) The evening went on, need I say, to be a huge night that included drinking, dancing and the making of lurv, but I can assure you, not by this correspondent.

I know we are all very thankful to MUSTO who were official and sole suppliers of apparel and have extended to us a great deal that we were very fortunate to get. UK Halsey also sponsored us with a \$500 voucher for a sail, a trip on George was also donated by Steve Aulich and there were many Musto goodies too, all of which made the raffle fantastic. Also, thanks again to Pete Holmes, who sails on *Crackerjack* and who supplied all of the graphic design we needed to make posters, hats, shirts, bags and this very newsletter! Just a brilliant job!!



## Hatches, Matches and... getting on for dispatches

*By Helen Back*

Since our last edition of 'Hit The Mark!' our illustrious President, Sarah Thompson, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Henry, on Christmas Eve! I am sure I speak for all J folk in wishing Sarah and Henry everything good in life and all prosperity. Candice and Brendan got married!!! Yes, tied the knot!! This of course means that their boat *By The Lee*, now has a new skipper... but don't tell Brendan, he'll work it out in his own time. Either way... long life and happiness to them both. Finally... our candidate who is lining up for dispatches is Simon Grain, our dear friend and the engine room of all things J24 in Australia, who has defied all odds and reached the ripe old age of 60. During the states we will have whip round for Simon... he needs new teeth, a walking frame, some Viagra, an electric tricycle (with basket... he also wants it to have an aerial with a little flag on it... don't ask me why!!), the deposit on a burial plot, some adult diapers and some extra strong glasses, a pair of those giant slippers for people with sore feet... and anything that can help with his memory. Happy Birthday Simon!!

Finally, Robyn Coombs also had a birthday, on the same day as the final Thursday twilight race no less. She is now 102 years old, and looking great.



## The Monjon (Australia) 2013 J24 Victorian State Titles! 20th and 21st April

Yes!!! John and Traci Moncrieff, owners of Monjon (Australia), Melbourne's premier security company, have once again put their hand in their pocket to sponsor our 2013 state titles. And, true to their word, they have increased the sponsorship to \$5,000!! For which we all extend our sincere gratitude. On line entries can be made through the SYC website where the NORs and also the Racing Instructions will also be available. As this article is being written the Vic committee are expecting 23 boats to take part. Yes, the same number of boats as the nationals. Be there.

I have heard through the unreliable grapevine that Doug Watson, Adelaide, fancies his chances of taking the title back with him to Adelaide after seeing *Pacemaker* doing the unthinkable, and all but disintegrating, in the Nationals. The, now proven, fallibility of *Pacemaker* has quite a few sharks salivating it would seem! Might Ben Lamb (present Australian and Victorian Champion) return and be anything but a Lamb to the slaughter? And, don't forget the old blokes on *Convict's Revenge* (3rd in Nationals), nor Hugo The Maestro (been so close recently)... as for the young guns... Adam Evans, Adam Evans, Adam Evans, c'mon mate... nail this title already!!

## Vic State Titles... song and Dance

Friday 19th... welcome sausage and beers at The Ken King Centre from 5pm till 8pm.

Saturday 20th... BBQ at Mike Lewenhagen's place... 7 Scott Street, Beaumaris... from 7pm onwards... till not too late, please! Skippers are requested to bring nibbles and the crews as much grog as they can carry.

Sunday 21st... after the last race, and all boats are home and hosed, presentation of the various prizes and the much coveted title will be made at **The Off The Beach Centre** unless advised otherwise.

## Vic Boats measurement 6th and 7th April

Yes, again!! Please contact Doug MacGregor to book your boat in for measurement, which will include weighing each boat for racing weight and also a check on all safety items. Mark Houghton our Victorian measurer will be in charge assisted by Doug.

Call Doug on 0400 584 067.

## Shock, Horror!!!!!!!!!!

*By Chick N. Curry*

Finally... finally... finally... the big boys wake up to the genius, simplicity and economy of one design. The next Volvo Ocean Race will be in a new one design Volvo 65 from the drawing board of the Farr office in the USA. The news brief said that (... this will come as shock news to you) "one design will keep costs down". Wait for this 'oh-so-hot-never-been-thought-of-before-and-sit-down-before-you-faint' news... "it will provide extremely close racing". Anyone up for sticking a few bob on at the bookies on 6 times J24 world Champion Ken Read (who skippers Puma) winning it next time? Please see Peter Moulang for advice on how to do this. (Yes, from your smart phone) Volvo Ocean Racing... welcome to the world of the sane.

Staying with the theme of One Design, you may also have been aware that the TP52's had a 'big' regatta here at SYC... yes... a whole 11 boats. I tried not to mention at the members' bar we'd 23 boats at our regatta... but I failed miserably. I heard a whisper, and that's all it was, that one of the boat's wages bill was \$17,000... a day! Or... the price of a reasonable J24... a day! I was lucky enough to be invited on to a spectator boat and to see the action up close. I have got to say the downwind start was quite spectacular. All was quiet, some movement on the start line then out of nowhere 11 spinnakers appeared as if by the wave of a wand. Our One Design bedfellows put on a brilliant show but tell you what... they're not having more fun than us, they've the same problems as us (kite up/kite down/kite wraps/kite in water/fordeckie, mad as a cut snake), they have actually less competition than us... but lordy do they spend more money than us, to what gain, is my question. Please send answers to me written on the back of a one hundred dollar note.

The logo for the J24 sailboat class, featuring a large, stylized 'J' above a horizontal line, and the number '24' below it.

## Summer Sprint Series

by Hugh Jarse

At the time of going to press there have been 17 completed J24 sprint races. . . you know the ones on a Sunday morning that hardly any boats turn up for? *Pacemaker* are out in front (c'mon fleet! Can no one beat 'em?!). Dave and the Sudettes are on 12 points, comprising of, yes, twelve first places with a couple of drops of 14, 2 and 3 to blot the otherwise pristine copybook. Tucked in behind them, like, er, a very friendly person, is Simon Grain skippering *Jet*. Simon and the Simonovettes sit on 29 points and have about as much chance of winning the title as I have of sleeping with Kylie Minogue before the day is finished. Or any day come to think on it. However, they have a lot to be proud of. No result worse than 4th is surely worthy of a tattoo. *Hyperactive* (no longer to be called "the girl's boat", so I am led to believe) are down the stretch a bit on 44 points and couldn't win the title in a pink fit. . . w hich is kind of neat because they wear pink outfits (ouch!!.. I know) . . . they've also got a pink kite, pink bags, pink shirts, pink water bottles, pink hats, pink knickers, pink bras, pink Y fronts (told you it now isn't an all male affair), pink blocks, pink tiller, pink tiller cover, pink gloves, pink pee bucket and pink sunnies. Exhausted?? I am. Hang in there, only one to go. Forth on the ladder is the miracle worker, Ron Thomson, skipper of *Kicking Bottom*. For a man with the oldest boat in the fleet he defies all odds. But that's not to say he himself is odd. With 49 points he and *Hyper* have a fight worth fighting for third place. You could say that all that lies between these ferocious competitors is the brim of a green sparkly top hat. (Ouch again) Either way, enough from me, I have a Botox appointment and then a pole dancing class to get to. Meantime, be well and enjoy anyone you can lay your hands on.



## How much is that Boat in The Window?

Three boats for sale at the moment! *Make My Jay*, *Kicking Bottom* and also *Excite Your Senses*. Check the national web site for details. All of them are well loved boats. . . could you learn to love one of 'em????



## The South Australian State Championships 2013

by Ron Thomson

It was close to 7pm on Thursday evening when we left Sandringham for the journey to Adelaide after a topsy turvy previous 24 hours deciding whether to change plans or continue the planned journey. However, after much ado, and tall tales I won't go into, we were greeted by Doug Watson on arrival at CYCSA and within a few hours had the mast up (nearly straight), boat unpacked and then in the water ready for the following day's adventures. Soon our wonderful hosts Jim and Robyn, turned up, and we had a pleasant dinner and some wine at the club before the trek to Skye where we were staying.

After a great night's sleep (no snoring interruptions as we all had our own rooms) we headed to the club via the airport to pick up the last crew member. It was a beautiful day with the wind to be predicted to be 4 to 5 knots east, north and then southerly. The first race was a 5 knot easterly (110 degrees) which swung wildly about 5 minutes from the start and then even more so we could not start on starboard. It was one leg to the first mark and *El Fideldo* (Doug Watson) lead from *Kicking Bottom* (KB) and *No Eye Deer* (Jamie

Goodes), *JJF* (Andrew Townsend). The downwind leg was a shire run and the course was altered 40 degrees to the north. This was still not enough and the next leg was again a single tack. *JJF* celebrated crossing the line 3rd but forgot it was two laps so there was much finger pointing in the boat. Final result was *El Fileldo*, from *KB*, *No Eye Deer* and *Good Company* came storming home to snatch 4th.

Race two, was set with a due north work to windward and was three laps. Doug was again quick off the mark and lead to the first mark. *KB* took some time out of the lead in the second work to be only three boat lengths behind. The course was again altered another 90 degrees to become 270 and a great tacking dual took place upwind. Doug showed his skill and great tacking style to increase the lead and *KB* desperately tried a few strange tactics downwind only to struggle to keep a flying *Such is Life* (Dave Nicholson) at bay.

The next race was a southerly at 6 knots, which looked like strengthening, and the course was lengthened to 0.7 kms. *KB* won the start from *Such is Life* and *JJF* and then lead around the first lap. Carefully ensuring *KB* sat between the wind, top mark and the two attackers, *No Eye Deer* and *JJF*, the lead was maintained and then put a slight (but fatal)



cover on *El Fideldo* who continued left overlaying the top mark. The wind died and who was sitting pretty? *El Fideldo*. She scraped past everyone and got to the top mark with a spinnaker up. *JJF* followed and just got to the hitch mark without tacking and *KB* struggled and had to tack between the top mark and hitch mark. By this stage a battle between *El Fideldo* and *JJF* as to who can drift fastest with the tide when suddenly the race was abandoned. Someone said you could hear the expletives from the shoreline!!!! – surely not from a Townsend gentleman.

Day one ended then with only two races from a possible four and we all headed back to the club for a fine dinner, with a choice of at least 5 courses put on by CYCSA for the event, which was fabulous, putting other yacht clubs to shame for the standard of food and portion sizes. All of it washed down with yet more wine and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Day two arrived in glorious sunshine with all crews fit and well, except for *JJF*, which appeared a bit too happy in the morning (trying not to show the heavy hangovers). This time we started in a SE at 7 knots. *Cookie Monster* has a great start (Brian Walsh) with *Stockcar* (Bill Coutts). The same pattern soon emerged with Doug Watson showing his great sailing skills to pull away to win well from *KB* and *Such is Life*.

Race five was in 5 knots from southwest and *KB* won the start and pulled away from *Such is Life*, *JJF* and *El Fideldo* to lead the first lap but soon Doug showed why he is a true champion as he changed gears to work to the form to win well from *Such is Life* and *KB* who kept a strong *Stockcar* at bay. Race six was the final race held in 5 knots at 215 degrees. It became a three way battle between *El Fideldo*, *KB* and *Such is Life* and the wind died then rose and died again. The last leg there was much covering, tacking and pushing each other to the wrong side of the course which allowed *Good Company* to come from no where to be second at the top mark. Doug made it a perfect 5 wins and *KB* swept past *Good Company* downwind to snatch second.

It was a great regatta, wind all over the place and light and hot weather. It would like to thank Jim and Robin Townsend for looking after us, and all at CYCSA for putting on a great regatta. On our journey home we got to Bordertown on Sunday evening ensuring that we stayed at the same cheap hotel playing the same African tunes we'd enjoyed on our trip to Adelaide as, Cherry, our fly-in rock star crew, had not had the pleasure. Sweet memories. I'll take this opportunity to thank my crew; Fitz, Stuart, Janet and Cherry for their efforts and support in wearing the team t-shirt throughout the event.

