

# Hit the Mark!

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN J24 ASSOCIATION

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## Winter Sprints

by R. Sole

What follows are tales of the brave, the foolhardy, the just plain hardy and of those that would put the keenest of mustards to shame. This reporter has been told that only five boats have officially entered the Winter Series with two casual entries to help things along. At the top of the ladder to date is *By The Lee*, well clear of *Kicking Bottom*, and even more ahead of *Vice Versa*. There have been tales of sailors wearing only tees shirts and broad grins, there have been reports of crew swimming and sun baking and making merry, there have been tales of perfect sailing weather and sportsman like conduct and even worse... tales of every race being completed. True or false? No one will confirm. But hey, well done to those who like and want to race in winter. Winter racing is not everyone's glass of single malt and the number of entries confirm that, which surely means that more seriously thought must be given to the validity of participation by only 25% of the J24 fleet and even whether 5 boats is enough to warrant the services of a race committee, volunteers and boats. Perhaps the J24 fleet should line up along with the Sydney 38s who race approximately once a month throughout the winter and have good numbers on the start line and therefore more realistic and competitive racing? Surely 4 well populated races with more than 50% of the fleet attending is better than 10 races with 3-5 boats maybe(?) turning up? Now all there is left to say is... letters. Please. To the editor. What on earth do J24 folk want?



## Soar on Wings of Youth

Which can only mean John Neville! Good old (young) Johnny has been appointed J24 Youth Officer and has accepted his new role with a skip and a jump that any teenager would have been proud of. As some you may know John has his kids sailing OTB and therefore has a real feel those coming through the sailing race system and are interested or are ready for keelboats. This of course does not mean that he won't need help or input. So if you are sitting on your fat arse whilst reading this and feel you can do more, get on the phone to him and make a difference. Elsewhere in this newsletter John goes into some detail about the youth set up and makes for good reading. Well done Johnny Be Brave!

## Holiday!! In St Kilda?

**RMYS 16th and 17th February 2014**

Goodbye Docklands and hello Fitzroy Street! Yes folks, the traditional and annual Summer J24 run to Docklands, will be replaced by a cruise (and overnighter), to the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron. This looks like it will be an absolutely spiffing event. The rough outline looks like this; Set sail from sandy between 2 and 3pm on Saturday 16th Feb, upon arrival at RMYS secure your boat to some berth or such like, have beer at the RMYS clubhouse, skinny dip, have more beer, have dinner somewhere on Fitzroy Street, have wine and beer, go clubbing, head back to boat, drink more beer, go skinny dipping, GET OUT OF WATER, go to bed, sleep like a baby and then... maybe there will be a proper race back to the club on Sunday 17th if you've all behaved yourself. Missing this will be like missing Christmas... or even worse... your mother-in-law's birthday.

## J24 Victoria AGM

**16th October 7pm**

Please attend... I am begging you!!!

Please look out for the formal AGM notice, which should arrive by email to all members soon. Apart from turning up to take part and be informed of the past year and what to hope for in the next, if you, or a fellow member you know, want to get on to the committee nominations must be made in advance of the AGM date.

On the up side it usually is a good night. Apart from getting into the nitty gritty of elections and what monies have been spent where and on what, there's a lot of banter and J24 fun and games. Most folk will meet early at the club and break bread together before heading through to the member's lounge for the political decision making process. Afterwards we party like it's 1999... and if you believe that latter statement then politics ain't for you.



## SYC Centenary Cup

by Scot.S.Mann

So... what they've done, big man... is only pure moved the date... now it's two weeks after the state titles... so... ye kin have a rest after that an' be ready for a whole new regatta... a wan day wan... an' there's gonny be a prize... an they're talking about a night in a hotel fer you an' yer burd or as they say nooadays... you and yer significant ither (I'll believe that when I see it) and... there's gonny be a trophy... nae kiddin'!! A pure big trophy that'll break yer mantle piece intae two pieces by the way...

so get a hold o' yer headcase, crazy crews, an' get tore in Big Yin.



## Yachting Victoria Open Day

17th November 2013

In brief... we need five boats. Four to take people for a sail, one on the hardstand or dock to attract and hold the interest of those interested. This means 5 skippers and at least 5 crew. Please contact Sarah Thompson of you can and or are will to help. At boats for 9-ish... wrapped by 4.30/5.00pm



# MONJON

SECURING YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS

## Monjon sponsors J24 State Titles for third year in a row!

Yes, the brilliant news is just as the above headline reads. This brings the total sponsorship received by J24 Victoria from John Moncrieff owner of Monjon (Australia) Ltd to a massive \$14,000 over the three years that Monjon will have been involved with the class. So, if you see John Moncrieff in the course of your travels be sure to kiss him full on the lips, shake his hand, slap his back and or fall on bended knee at his feet in gratitude. Even better; place whatever security purchases you make for your business, or work, through Monjon!



John Moncrieff – Monjon

It really is time for us to give Monjon a whole lot more back for their sponsorship. Please watch this space and pay attention to future emails as we may require you, skippers, and your crews to be fully involved in some form of corporate racing day. At the moment plans for this are sketchy but the intent is strong.

## J24 Youth Boats by John (Johnny) Neville

Where have all the youth boats gone?

The first year of our youth boat program finished at the end of April with the culmination of the State Titles.

This brought to an official end the year for the two crews, lead by Andy Hunting on *Jive* and the Bees–Davis and Davies—on *Gatsby*.

We had great feedback from both crews. Each enjoyed the experience sailing the J's. They loved the racing, the regatta scene and the competition. They both found the year was a huge learning experience for them, not only boat management, but people management as well and at times struggled to get consistent crew on board. In a learning curve for the organisers, we came to realise that other life events and commitments particular to younger people sometimes overtook their best endeavours to get on the water.

Since April, things have been a bit quiet. But this is about to change.

In the next couple of weeks, we expect to announce the successful applicants for the new crew spots. Following this, we would hope to see the boats getting out on the water in August for some familiarisation and training with the view of joining in racing towards the end of the Winter Series. At this stage there are still one or two opportunities for younger crew members to join the crews, so if you want to have a go then contact us as soon as possible. That said, there are always opportunities for younger members to join boats in the J fleet as a whole.

Our aim is to get the crews up and about to participate fully over summer, so that by next April we again have two competitive boats in the fleet for the states. To do this, we will be looking again for some input from the experienced skippers and crews from throughout the fleet. Hugo and Simon did a great job last year providing coaching and

mentoring, but it would be great to share the load and provide a broad range of perspectives into what it takes to make them go fast and be safe. Additionally, we want to focus some effort this year on helping the two skippers get experience in broader aspects of operating a keelboat. Organising crew, maintaining equipment, having fun!! Those sorts of things. Help is always needed and always valued.

## People Get Ready

by J24 Vic President Sarah Thompson

After a sleepy winter - October is quickly creeping up for the SYC International (themed) Open Day a chance to spruce your boat up, clean out the cobwebs and prepare for an extremely new exciting season

With such a large fleet, and hopefully two new youth boat crews, the summer looks promising as we have locked in with the SYC calendar a full Summer Sprint Series, which includes a Saturday Sprint Race - joining in with the other clubs fleets in short racing, 4 exhibition races, a weekend at Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron for a little bit of recreational sailing and partying in St Kilda and our State Championship. We are again proud to announce that **Monjon** has kindly again sponsored our forthcoming State Championship and would like to thank them for their fantastic support.

Please note that the Lipton Cup and Centenary Trophy Race are no longer included in our Sprint series - however we will be presenting a new J24 Trophy and hopefully prizes for the Centenary Cup. The latter is to be held two weeks after the States and is kinda the last bash of the year so it would be good to see you there.

We are also joining Yachting Victoria in an Open Day on the 17th November, and are hoping to have 4 J's out and a boat on the dock with J sailors introducing themselves to potential crew or buyers. We need all the support we can get and it would be brilliant to

have yours. So if you are available that day please let me know on [sarathompson2091@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarathompson2091@yahoo.co.uk)

We are also looking for mentors for the Youth Boats so if you have some free time to extend your knowledge please contact John Neville.

Please keep an eye out for the new calendar which should be out shortly on the club web site. There is also a point that I would like to raise about the winter series, the SYC sailing committee are concerned that there are not enough entries to warrant 8 winter races and feel that maybe we should half the number of races and, perhaps following the Sydney 38 programme - can skippers please let me know if that would entice you and your crew to the winter warmers?

On another note please be aware of the point system that the club has enforced, owners need to collect enough points during the year by racing to maintain your hard stand - the club has recently sent out information to all skippers.

Also with the beginning of the new season perhaps we should also be looking at checking our safety equipment as the SYC team will be making a day of checking the J's - so please make sure your flares and fire extinguishers and safety needs are up to date with the blue book regulations.

Finally the AGM is on 16th October, if you feel that could contribute to the Vic Association please put down your name to join the committee - new blood, help and ideas are always welcome

Looking forward to seeing you on the water.

## Monjon (Australia) Ltd J24 Victorian State Titles 2013

And a bloody good time was had by all! It all seems so long ago but was packed with the crazy stuff that has very much become part and parcel of J24 racing now that we have upward of 20 boats sailing in every regatta. The untouchable crew of *Pacemaker* once again were crowned State Champions if only by one point from *Convicts Revenge* (AKA The Old Blokes' Boat). The first top mark in each race was chaotic, dangerous and no place for the fainthearted. Those coming in on port tack were... words fail me... but let's give 'em the benefit of the doubt and call them 'brave'. A newbie won the handicap trophy (who actually sets these handicaps and how, remains a complete mystery) but that's not to take anything away from Bruce and his crew who lifted the trophy. Hugo Ottaway on *Bruschetta* broke his rudder fitting and nearly lost the whole thing over the side, *Crackerjack* once again (for the third time in a season to be accurate) did a very good impression of a punch bag and had her stanchion ripped out together with the accompanying deck damage. Then of course there was the famed BBQ on the Saturday night. Hosted as ever by our great friend and massive J-guy Mike Lewenhagen at his house in Beaumaris. We are in your debt mate. What's left to say but "roll on next year's state titles"! A more technical and detailed and race by race report of this excellent regatta was beautifully written by Simon Grain (National Vice President) and can be found on the national web site.



## J24 World Champions win TP52 Super Series in Copa del Rey!

credit: J World Newsletter

By winning 6 of 11 races, QUANTUM RACING simply smoked their hot competition in the TP52 class recently while racing for the regatta win and the overall 52 Super Series championship win off Palma Mallorca, Spain. The American team, which is skippered by Ed Baird and has Terry Hutchinson as tactician, enjoyed the sparkling sea breeze which topped 20 kts at times during the last race to deliver the final race victory, running out their third successive 52 SUPER SERIES regatta win after triumphs in Barcelona and Ibiza.

Competitor Nikolas Zennström paid them the ultimate compliment, admitting the QUANTUM RACING crew were pretty much unstoppable, "At the end of this regatta we are pretty happy with second. We wanted to win regatta, we gave it a shot and we are sailing the boat well but Quantum Racing are just sailing better."

For the Quantum Racing team, formed in 2008, it is the first time they have won Spain's biggest and most prestigious regatta. And, it took TWO J/24 World Champions (Ed & Terry), not just one, to pull off a formidable tour'de'force on the race course. Surprised? Perhaps not, that's what tough J/One-Design competition teaches many of the world's best sailors participating in premiere regattas around the world. It will be interesting to see if another J/24 World Champion, John Kostecki (the tactician on Oracle's AC72 for skipper Jimmie Spithill) can pull off what many consider the improbable task of beating the Flying Kiwi's on-board Emirates Team New Zealand AC72 in the America's Cup 34 Finale. Time will tell if all that one-design experience will come into play!

## Welcome to the Newbies!!

Folks, *Make My Jay* has a new owner! Please make welcome to the world of J24 racing and sailing Rob Hartnett and his wife Leisa. They have four children who are all sailors (doing a total of four nationals this year!) and I suspect we can expect to find a very competitive boat on that start line. As ever, say hello if you see them down purring over their new craft and bring them into our big J24 family.

## Race Season 2013-14

You can get the full calendar from the SYC web site . . . or you can just annoy the bejeezus out of your skipper and ask him/her every single week when the next race is. But just to help, the first race is Sunday October 13th

Summer Sprint Dates	Winter '14 Sprint Dates	Club Regattas
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	OTB Sail Sandy: October 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	J24 Grand Prix: November 9 <sup>th</sup>
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	June 29 <sup>th</sup>	YV Discover Sailing: November 17 <sup>th</sup>
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lipton Cup: November 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	July 27 <sup>th</sup>	J24 Grand Prix: November 30 <sup>th</sup>
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	August 10 <sup>th</sup>	J24 Grand Prix: February 8 <sup>th</sup>
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	August 24 <sup>th</sup>	J24 @ Royal Melbourne: February 23 <sup>rd</sup>
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	September 7 <sup>th</sup>	J24 Grand Prix: March 15 <sup>th</sup>
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	J24 VIC State Titles: April 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>		SYC Centenary Regatta: April 26 <sup>th</sup>
April 6 <sup>th</sup>		

