

afloat and ashore

WITH THE SYDNEY HARBOUR & PITTWATER ZONE

The big events in the V.J. series were now in full swing and the P.L. boats should take a big hand in the final distribution of the major prizes.

Firstly, the Zone test races for selection to contest the State Titles. These were held on Sydney Harbour and were controlled by Double Bay Club. Wonderful racing was the general opinion by both competitors and spectators. The boats to qualify are as follows:—

SENIORS

- "Troubles," J. Freeman, Middle Harbour.
- "Hornet," C. Magarey, V.A.S.C.
- "Escapade," R. Grainger, M.H.
- "Impudence," S. Sommerville, M.H.
- "Hi-Lite," A. James, D.B.S.C.
- "Impulse," P. Sorensen, N.S.C.
- "Minx," T. Beardsmore, M.H.
- "Sylph," G. Davenport, M.H.
- "Wots Doin'," P. Slight, D.B.S.C.
- "Zero," R. Zemanek, M.H.
- "Interlude," R. Montgomery, C.R.S.C.
- "Takiri," D. Hogan, D.B.S.C.
- "Anything Goes," W. Davidson, A.S.C.
- "Hypo," R. Hudson, R. Hudson, D.S.C.
- "Fever," D. Marmo, M.H.
- "Terrific," R. Priestly, D.B.S.C.

JUNIORS

- "Intruder," A. Magarey, V.A.S.C.
- "Vigour," D. Thompson, N.B.S.C.
- "Siesta," G. McCrohan, D.B.S.C.
- "Wiggle," G. Oake, C.R.S.C.
- "Zest," R. Walker, C.R.S.C.
- "Duet," A. Davidson, V.A.S.C.
- "Fugitive," R. Cooper, M.H.

"Dart," J. Messenger, D.B.S.C.

"Sonaat," P. Dalton, V.A.S.C.

"Venus," J. Murray, V.A.S.C.

"Vengeance," Palmer, V.A.S.C.

"Rhapsody," V.A.S.C.

"Venom," P. Nichols, V.A.S.C.

"Hi-Jinks," S. Warn, D.B.S.C.

"Fadeaway," R. Hawthorne, D.B.S.C.

"Renegade," R. Morgan, M.H.

In the senior division the outstanding boat was undoubtedly "Troubles," sailed by "Never

"TROUBLES"



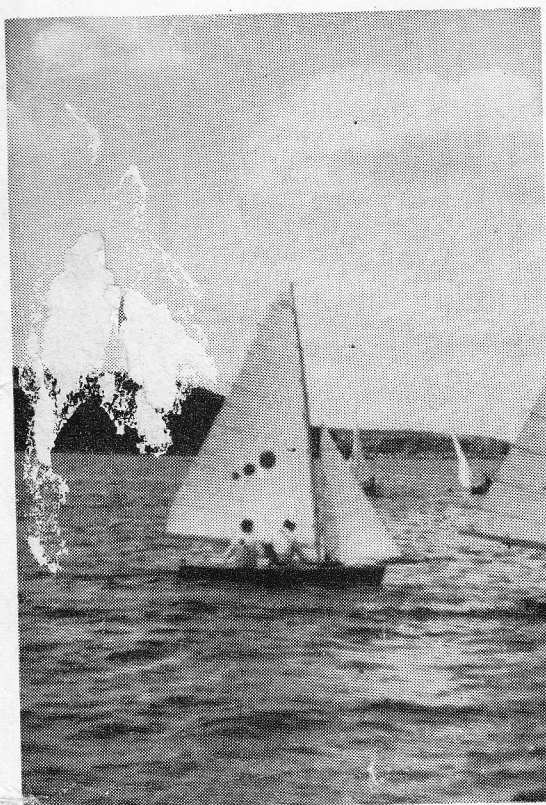
Beaten" Jim Freeman, with Bruce Lane at the sharp end. But from the form shown in these races, Jim is not going to have things all his own way. "Troubles" won the first heat from "Escapade" with "Minx" third. "Escapade," who seems to go best in light air was always a danger to the champ who had to show all his ability to hold the lead off. "Minx" sailed an excellent race to get the minor placing just in front of "Impulse," "Sylph" and "Anything Goes." "Hi-Lite" and "Zero," both expected to do big things, dipped out in this heat. Both did something not in accordance with the rules as written and both got the axe. One bad error in this heat that could have really had a big bearing on the result, was the laying of a buoy in Rose Bay. This buoy was laid in a veritable maze of buoys and competitors had to guess which one to go for. The unlucky ones guessed wrong.

The second heat on Sunday morning was late starting for reasons only known to officials controlling the series. Eventually the fleets got away to a light N.E. breeze. This heat was won by "Hornet," which really revelled in the conditions and after an excellent start went to the front and was never headed. Chris was chased round by "Impulse," which tried valiantly to peg "Hornet" back. In third place was "Escapade," still showing big race form and going extra well. "Hi-Lite" and "Zero" were really battling with no points on the board for heat 1, and both not in good positions. A lot of skill and guile was needed to get clear of the pack. These boys were really trying. They came through well to get points. "Troubles" withdrew from this heat and "Minx" and "Impudence" had kite trouble.

Heat 3 started very late, being put back about an hour. The start was very straggly, with the starting line badly laid. Somebody erred badly here, as the 18-footers had a starting line about 50 yards in front of the Jays. It wasn't the best seeing 18's, V.J.'s, ferries and launches all manoeuvring for positions.

This heat was a real thriller, the breeze was freshening and some boats only on the borderline of qualifying and needing points badly. These included "Takiri," "Hi-Lite" and "Wots Doin" from Double Bay, "Zero" from Middle Harbour, "Hypo," Drummoyne, and "Interlude" River Club.

"Impudence" enjoyed the fresher conditions



"MINX"

and after a battle with "Troubles," "Hornet" and "Hi-Lite" it seemed to have the race well won. But then Stew Sommerville, the skipper, made a bad blue. He sailed a course of his own and let these boats out from under. He should have covered them all the way. Skippers like Freeman, Magarey and James don't need a second chance. They grabbed the opportunity, with the result that "Slim" found himself relegated to fourth place. The finish resulted in "Troubles" winning from "Hornet" and "Hi-Lite."

Back in the pack, "Zero," "Sylph," "Interlude" and "Wots Doin" were battling hard. "Zero" was really pushing, having missed the start by about three minutes, so the effort to finish fifth was full of merit.

To sum up the Seniors, let's say no surprises. All our best boats were there. Congrats. to the qualifiers, better luck next time to the not so lucky. My opinion on the senior title is, with the fleet headed by the defending champ., "Troubles," to spearhead it—it's in the bag.

Juniors: In the junior section of the tests, the

known juniors seemed to have the edge on the newer lads.

Heat 1: This heat went to "Vigour," a noted junior who takes a big hand in open Club events. "Zest" was second. This boy is good, just a little uncertain; "Wiggle" third, then "Intruder" and "Fugitive," a newcomer with good prospects.

Heat 2: This heat, although slowly sailed, was full of incident. Light weather boats prevailed, the win going to "Siesta," who had vailed, the win going to "Siesta," which had the race well in hand a long way from home.

It never looked in much danger of losing, although during the race he had been led by two small lads sailing "High Jinks". These mighty midgets, about 11 years old and weighing about the same as two feather pillows, really enjoyed the light stuff and it was bad luck to have the heat taken away from them owing to a rule infringement. "Intruder" was second and "Vigour" third. "Dart" came into the picture here with a good fourth.

Heat 3: The third heat was very much like the first heat, with the known juniors dominating the picture again. "Intruder" won this heat from "Wiggle," with "Duet," a stablemate of the winner, third, and "Fugitive" next.

To sum up the Juniors: Five or six good boats well tried and could easily take the title. The balance of the fleet, an unknown quantity.

Good luck, kids. We are optimistic, but "Gamble" from Southern Zone will be tough and we have to watch the Northern Zone reps.

Summing up generally: Sailing excellent, organisation fair, courses fair. Results, not many surprises.

Any shortcomings are not the fault of any Club, but the Zone shows a lack of foresight generally and the Zone would do a lot of good for the competitors and the Clubs if all future Test Races be controlled by a Committee. Each Club in the Zone could nominate its best officials to control such carnivals. From such nominees a Sailing Committee and such other Committees could be formed to handle the various sections, such as programmes, courses, venue, and general management ashore and afloat.

MIDDLE HARBOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The next big Zone events were the M.H. Cham-

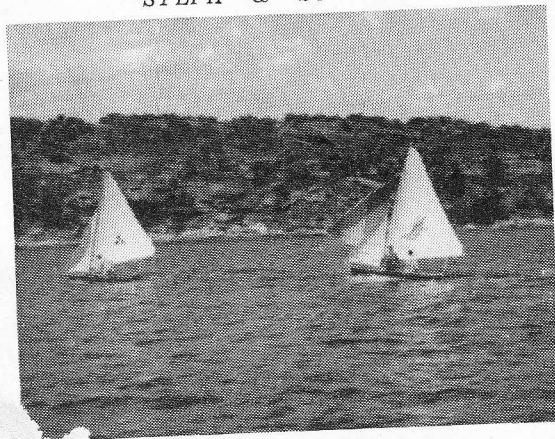
pionships. These events were not particularly well patronised. A lot of local lads did not enter. This was a pity, as a great chance was missed to test the skill of prospective contestants in the coming State titles. Southern Zone was well represented by some of their best boats. All Middle Harbour's best boats competed. Vaucluse and Double Bay were well represented. Those who missed out really missed what could be termed a full dress rehearsal for the title events. The three heats were keenly contested with a variety of winds to test the keeness of skippers.

Heat 1—Senior and Juniors: Good start, but very little breeze. The course had to be shortened on account of this. The fleets kept tightly packed for the greater part of the race. First, one boat, then another taking the lead. Eventually in the Seniors, "Takiri" (D.B.) forged to the front and won easily.

In the Juniors, "Freelance," R. Weaver (M.H.) was a long way back early, but by sheer determination he caught up to and sailed through the fleet to win well. This lad has a big future in sailing; for a first season skipper, he shows wonderful promise. "Dart," from Double Bay, got a big break early on the juniors and it looked all over, but it struck a flukey patch and dipped out badly. "Gamble," from Southern Zone, is an opportunist. He seized up the position and conditions admirably, sailing a great race to finish second.

Heat 2—Seniors and Juniors: Both heats well away. The seniors were well bunched on the short work to the first mark, but after rounding the mark "Troubles," "Hornet" and

"SYLPH" & "SCATTER"



"Hi-Lite" singled out from the bunch and fought out a close race, finishing in the order named.

The Juniors in Heat 2 were somewhat similar, "Wiggle" and "Gamble" getting an early break and taking the lead alternately. "Wiggle" prevailed at the finish to defeat "Gamble," with "Intruder," who had made up a lot of leeway on the last work, to finish the closest of thirds. The Middle Harbour Juniors, who were expected to do well on their home course, failed to show any real dash.

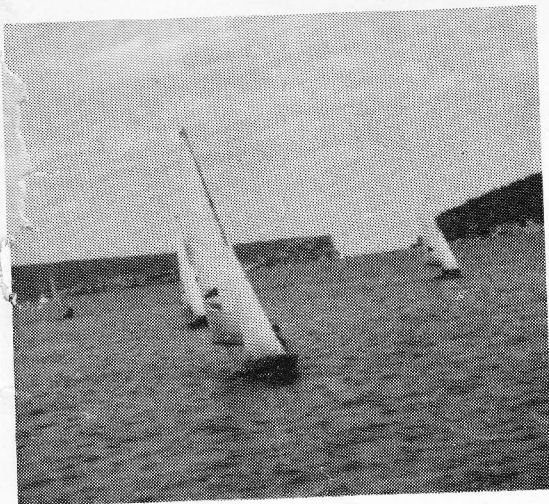
Heat 3—Seniors and Juniors: The breeze had freshened considerably for these heats. "Takiri" and "Wots Doin" went out with a long lead in the senior division, and it looked any odds on "Takiri" taking the title. "Troubles" was giving her about two minutes' start with two legs of the course to cover. But it could be seen at the Grotto mark that the State champ. was going to make things tough. Not letting up for a second and getting everything out of their boat, Jim Freeman and Bruce Lane swept round the other two to snatch a victory and take the championship.

The juniors' heat went to the favourite, "Gamble". This gave him the junior championship. In this heat "Gamble" had to battle hard to hold off an unknown junior in Tony Carson on "Tyrant". Tony seemed to profit by experience in earlier heats and really sailed well in the final heat to just miss. "Freelance" had a big lead at one part and looked as though he could have won the title, but lack of big race experience told, and young Weaver faded out towards the finish.

At this juncture our Zone seems to have an edge on the Southern Zone, but we lack information on our northern friends. The State title will tell. On local form my tip is for "Troubles" or "Minx" to win the senior event, and "Gamble" or "Wiggle" to take the junior event at the State carnival. The Northern Zone will have to produce some real cracker-jacks to throw our champs.

S.H.P.Z.'s Championship, first heat—Senior and Junior.

These races were organised by and sailed under the direction of the new Drummoyne V.J. Club. The organisation and conduct of these heats was a real credit to the Drummoyne officials responsible. Wal Jones



"ESCAPADE"

his helpers are a very competent bunch of lads. They have set an excellent example and standard for the other Clubs handling the other heats to follow. The hospitality and friendliness extended to competitors and officials invited along to help was greatly appreciated. A speedboat was placed at the officials' disposal, and what a boon it was!

The racing was very keen. A fresh southerly breeze was blowing and it looked like thrills and spills galore. The senior start was a bit straggly. "Trouble," "Escapade" and "Hi-Lite" were badly away. Casualties came early, the fresh breeze finding the weaknesses. "Impudence" had rudder trouble. "Takiri" was demasted and "Troubles" sheet rope snapped, and was the skipper in bother trying to ease and pull on the main with a knot in the rope! Never mind, Jim, your managing director father, Freeman, has informed me he is going to give you a new rope for Xmas.

After rounding the first mark, "J.D.", J. Horrocks, a Southern Zone rep., "Hornet" and "Minx" seemed to streak away from the main bunch. They opened up a big lead. Each one of the three led at different stages of the race and they virtually had the race to themselves—a real battle of tactics. "Minx" eventually prevailed by a narrow margin from "Hornet," with "J.D." a very close third.

The junior start was fairly even with "Wiggle," "Zest," "Renegade" and "Dart" best away. "Wiggle" and "Zest" took the lead and just as "Zest" looked to have a nice winning lead, the skipper spilled his lollies in the brook,

letting "Wiggle" get to the front, in which position it stayed to the finish, the junior sult being "Wiggle," "Zest" and "Intruder." "Renegade," sailed by Young Rick Moore, put up his best performance this season, should have finished a close third. Being off the course, he finished on the wrong side of the finishing flag. Bad luck, Rick. It was him the handicap event also.

Before heading for Drummoyne I took a little trouble to see part of the 16-ft. skiff test on the harbour. Did they have some trouble and strife! I was told the race had to be abandoned on account of many mix-ups at the start. I wonder when all types of sailing craft are going to adopt the high standard of international rules and make sailing in any type of craft similar.

So much for the sailing side. I hope other zones come along with some sailing news as in this way all Clubs and their members get to know who's who in the sailing world. News and pictures of boats and sailing places from other States would be very welcome. It keeps readers in touch with people and places where they are likely to sail. I think the Editor of our magazine would do well to show a map or some pictures of the locality where the coming Commonwealth Titles races are to be held in Western Australia.

On the subject of the Commonwealth Titles, the S.H.P. Zone is making a drive to raise funds to assist zone qualifiers who wish to go west. Rick Priestly from Double Bay Club is the chief organizer of the fund; he is a tower of strength, and is doing a power of work for the fund.

It's great to see a young chap take such an interest in his fellow sailors. Double Bay is very lucky to have so keen a worker.

Rick and his committee have organized a barbecue at the Middle Harbour Club's headquarters at The Spit, Mosman, for Saturday, 3rd December, at about 7.30 p.m., everyone's welcome. Also a guessing competition is under way and is helping to swell the fund; the result will be announced at this barbecue.

A thought on future State titles. The S. H. P. Zone feels that we miss the best of the racing with a lot of our young racers.

These lads find it hard to get in sufficient training for the big races, with all the im-

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... and State bodies selecting the neces-
... ary boats to contest these titles. This
... would not be very hard as boats eligible
... would have to have a low Club handicap
... or Zone handicap to have any chance of
... selection. All Zones could have test races
... in the last week in November or early De-
... cember to select eligible entries.

Our Zone has innovated a splendid idea known as a "Pool of Officials". This pool is now well formed and has many of the best officials of the Zone in its ranks. The way the scheme works is very simple and is mainly to assist new Clubs or Clubs who are a little short of officials for Zone races, or who feel that a better working team can be made up by drawing some officials from the Zone pool to work in conjunction with the Club's men. The idea is a very sound one and to a great extent relieves the worry of Club secretaries when looking for a composite sailing committee, an assistant starter or judge, who are all very conversant with the great number of V.J.'s sailing at present.

Everyone is showing the keenest interest and attention in their boats and gear wherever you go and one can feel the tension mounting as we approach the big races. So until after the State Titles, when we hope to bring you the Zone views, it's good and safe sailing to all.

The V.S. State titles are being held at Taree on the Manning River and I have not said a word about them as I am not very conversant with the contenders for these titles, so I would be only guessing to comment on them. A S. H. P. Zone delegate, Mr. R. Stone, from Western Suburbs Club, has offered to forward some details on these races and the competitors.

Our President, Mr. L. Perrin, would like to hear from anyone in the Zone who could act as a publicity man for the V. S. boys. Get some news to the Zone meetings and we will see it gets to the Editor of Sail.