

date 70 boats and increasing the area upstairs to include a senior members' room and a verandah overlooking the courses. Facilities such as hot and cold showers and new dressing rooms are also being added. Our Club looks forward to meeting new members so if you have a boat and would enjoy keen competition or perhaps would like to learn to sail and enjoy the thrills of small boat racing in a Club of enthusiastic sailors, kindly contact Dave Robinson, 19 Baroona Avenue, Church Point, or ring XX 3689.

## THE RENAISSANCE OF NORTHBRIDGE

In the past two or three years Northbridge Sailing Club has undergone a transformation remarkable in its immensity; a change so great that even the most optimistic of onlookers have been amazed. Four years ago it seemed as though Northbridge was on the way out. There was something like four V.J.'s racing with the club and the membership wasn't much more. The meetings were farcical, so poor was the attendance. It appeared that Northbridge Sailing Club was about to draw its last breath. It was about this time that the President, Mr. Norman Brooker, suggested that the club provide two divisions for V.J.'s. The idea seemed laughable at first, but was based on common sense. Norman Brooker knew that there were quite a few old V.J.'s that would probably race with Northbridge, if they could race against boats of their own calibre instead of being repeatedly "thrashed" by boats like Trevor Beardsmore's "Minx", Doug Brooker's "Venture", the Holmes' old flying machine and Kim Jones' "Quadrant". The idea bore fruit next season when fifteen V.J.'s faced the starter for the first trial race, 80% of them second division boats. From then on Northbridge Sailing Club has never looked back. The boys sailing these old second division boats formed the nucleus of Northbridge's new fleet. They instilled new life into the Club. The next year "Minx" went to Middle Harbour, "Quadrant" was sold to one of the second division boys and "Venture" was still there. The number of V.J.'s on the club register jumped from fifteen to thirty, as it stands

now. Norman Brooker was also responsible for the introduction of a junior dinghy division which has met with remarkable success. These tiny craft with their young skippers assure Northbridge Sailing Club of a great future.

Jim Mason, Norm Brooker's able successor, introduced the Senior Dinghy Division into the club. Northbridge Sailing Club now caters for sailing enthusiasts from the age of eight to eighty. Northbridge Sailing Club is now firmly established with thirty V.J.'s and a total of twenty dinghys on the club register and a membership close approaching the century mark. Truly could it be said that the Northbridge Club has undergone a "renaissance".

Results towards the end of this season point to some stiff competition in the first division next season. Last season "Vigour" and "Quadrant" had a virtual monopoly on the first and second places in the scratch races. These two will not have it all their own way next season with "Trojan", "Tranquil" and "Touche" and Eddie Bowen's new boat (un-named as yet) in the ascendancy. Peter Sorensen has sold "Quadrant" which has been Club Champion over the past two years and has now bought "Impulse", the Middle Harbour boat. "Quadrant" will be racing at the River Club in future. Don Thompson has also sold "Vigour" and has just received a new "Vigour" from Don Fairbrother. This boy will be a force in the juniors next year and will go close to being State Champion. Eddie Bowen, who is potentially the most outstanding sailor that Northbridge has produced in a long while, has just completed his new boat and should do well next season.

*Peter Sorensen.*

## MIDDLE HARBOUR SAILING CLUB

The progressive Middle Harbour V.J. Club is at long last about to have a home for its numerous members. A Clubhouse is being built by the members on a very lovely site at the southern end of the Spit Baths. The Site has a wonderful South and Easterly outlook and all races can be viewed for practically the whole of any course. There will be storage space for

70 boats and gear, dressing rooms for both sexes, a large dance floor for about 80 couples. Club Members are eagerly awaiting the completion of the building which will be a boon for the sailing community in this area, both in the sporting and social spheres.

The racing during the past season saw the Club well to the forefront taking both Senior and Junior State titles, Seniors being won by "Troubles", Jim Freeman with Bruce Lane forward, they also finished third on the Com. Title. The Juniors' being taken by "Wayward", Frazer Johnston with Jim Burke forward, finishing second in this event.

The Club's Blue Ribbon Event, the champion of champions, saw the best V.J. fleet in this State assembled. The race being won by "Ariel", R. Mann, from "Speer's Point", a northern zone boat.

Young Mann had a welcome change of luck, having been runner-up the two previous years.

The Club championship saw "Minx", T. Beardmore, and R. Preson, beat "Zero", R. Zemanek on an Olympic point score count back, with "Troubles", J. Freeman, 3rd.

At a recent Trophy presentation, the Club distributed over £250 worth of prizes among its members, practically all the 1st. Div. boats participating in the prize giving. A large crowd was present for the function which was held at the M.H. Yacht Club.

So we look forward to next season with a great amount of optimism. Twelve new boats are in various stages of preparation, to add to our large fleet and with a new Clubhouse to house them we are looking forward to the club's best season yet.

## MIDDLE HARBOUR v NORTHBRIDGE FOOTBALL

On Sunday, 17th July, Middle Harbour V.J. Club played Northbridge at Keirle Park. In a bright game of football, Middle Harbour defeated Northbridge 16-3. However the scores were no indication, since both sides were evenly matched.

Northbridge won a major share of the ball in the first half, but sound defence by the Middle Harbour backs kept them out.

First blood went to middle Harbour when breakaway Jeff Carter won a race for the ball which was kicked over the Northbridge line. The try was not converted. Right on the half time bell Northbridge were awarded a penalty right in front of the posts on the Middle Harbour 25, but the kick went wide, and the score at half time was 3-nil.

In the second half, Middle Harbour won a bigger share of the ball but once again sound defence by Northbridge stopped the Middle Harbour backs.

Soon after half-time, Rus. Norman scored a fine try for Northbridge after a good passing movement by the backs. The try was not converted.

With scores level some hard forward play developed and a number of fiery clashes resulted.

From a ruck, second rower Reon Powell gathered a loose ball, crashed his way through the Northbridge forwards and out-paced the opposing backs to score under the posts after a 50 yd. dash. Tony Henderson raised the flags with a good kick. Middle Harbour led 8-3. Soon after Northbridge were on the attack but a solid tackle knocked the ball loose from one of the Northbridge backs and outside centre Mark Phillips picked up the loose ball 30 yds. out with a tricky swerving run, sped for the line, outpacing the opposition to score under the posts. Once again Tony Henderson converted.

Just on the full-time bell Reon Powell picked up a loose ball and after a 60 yd. dash, went in for his second try. Tony Henderson missed in his attempt for goal, and the game closed with the scores 16-3.

*John Carter.*

## MOSMAN AMATEUR SAILING CLUB

This club has shown remarkable advances in the last 12 months. It was not long ago that the club appeared on its last legs. However an increase in membership and hard work by several of the club members has resulted in a remarkable confidence in the future of the Club.

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