

BSC Cruising Division

Meeting of Wednesday 1 November 2006, 6pm

Venue: SV 'Karadi' at the club pontoon

<u>Present:</u>	Alan Clark (Cruising Captain)	<i>Karadi</i>
	Sue Merricks	<i>Vida</i>
	Tony Partridge	<i>Vida</i>
	Marc Weynton	<i>Brakks</i>
	Mary Weynton	<i>Brakks</i>
	Dave Clark-Duff	<i>Southern Aura 2</i>
	Tom McGrath	<i>Whisper 2</i>
	Bob Jackson	<i>Hauraki</i>
	Ilse Dittes	<i>Hauraki</i>
	Gary Mahoney	<i>Horizon</i>
	Deborah Coe	<i>Quando</i>

Observing: Minke and Runcible *Vida*

Various members provided refreshments and nibbles, an initiative that was appreciated and recognised as a welcome precedent for future meetings

PROCEEDINGS

[From memory, without notes! Formal format for convenienc, not reflecting the tenor of the meeting! Tony]

Book Club

Several members had read the chosen book ("*Trustee of the Toolroom*" by Nevil Shute, chosen by Sue Merricks) and discussion ensued about the author's background and how it was reflected in the storyline. The underlying theme of a network of contacts and the support of such a network to individuals in the group was noted and its particular relevance to the sailing fraternity, and especially to cruising groups such as ours, was not missed.

Ilse Dittes nominated Slocum's account of his circumnavigation "*Sailing alone around the world*" as the next book, to be discussed at the December meeting.

Cruising Activities

Other Clubs

A brief account of the recent Combined Clubs meeting at **RMYC-Port Hacking** was given and an offer by that club to address our group on the Port Hacking – Batemans Bay event to be held in early January was discussed. The event, consisting of a series of Cat.7 races in Port Hacking, a Cat.3 coastal leg and further Cat.7 races in Batemans Bay, with great support at both locations from

the local clubs, was seen as something perhaps to be considered in a year's time. The offer of a speaker for this year was therefore not taken up.

The program for the **Middle Harbour YC Cruising Division** was tabled (and copies emailed prior to the meeting). It was noted that BSC members would be welcome to attend provided they gave MHYC an indication of intention – even if only by radio (“*Compass Rose, Compass Rose ...*”, etc.) at short notice.

Tony Partridge undertook to contact both clubs expressing our appreciation of their interest and support.

Balmain SC-CD program

1) A brief review of past CD activities was given by Alan, Bob and Marc before discussion of future plans, leading to a decision to hold the next sail-away to Middle Harbour on Saturday 18 / Sunday 19 November. Precise location to be decided on the day, wind dependant. (VHF 16 calls on the day to “*Dugong, Dugong...*”, etc.)

2) The opening of the Glebe Foreshore park at the Anchorage, Blackwattle Bay, 2-4pm Saturday 11 November was noted and Sue and Tony indicated their intention to take *Vida* and anchor just off shore to observe the proceedings. Other members are invited to join them (on their own boats or on *Vida*). Flags will be flown! (Bob Jackson wisely noted the possibility that the rather small anchorage area may become somewhat crowded on the day.)

Cruising Division Flag

Sue tabled further designs, following discussion at the previous meeting, and it was agreed that she would be asked to work on and distribute for comment a design incorporating the dugong image on a strong-coloured pennant. As it was further agreed that as it would be difficult to create a satisfactory design incorporating the BSC club flag, the final design pennant, when hoist, would be flown immediately below the BSC Club flag.

Website

Members congratulated Deborah on the draft website designs and agreed that the Harbour Bridge / Skipper with binoculars version summed up nicely the Balmain CD location and vision. Deborah and Dave Clark-Duff (BSC Webmaster) were asked to proceed the website development and incorporation in Club website.

Also agreed that, with such a small group, everyday communication should be by simple direct email, not via Hotmail, with a link to the website if new material had been added to that site.

Other Discussion

Radio Requirements Some discussion centred on the desirability of DSC-enabled VHF radios on board. (An earlier email discussion had concluded that HF was only necessary for blue water cruising, not the coastal cruising planned by most members). There was some uncertainty

about the need for a licence, with Marc noting that he believed a licence number was required when registering the DSC unit, contrary to the beliefs of others that VHF required no licence.

Radio Procedures Members noted with awe and admiration Allan Adolphson's guidelines for radio use on *Karidi* on her planned Tasmanian trip in the New Year. The opinion was expressed that it should be given wider circulation if Allan agreed.

Selection (and condition) of Sails Alan gave a brief account of his recent experience with sail failure on another boat, the message being that sail condition should be checked before significant passages and sail storage should be given greater attention.

Boat Owners Association of NSW Sue M. mentioned that she had just taken on the roles of Administrative Assistant and a Director of BOA and asked members of the group to contact the BOA to make their opinions known on boating matters as the BOA would have a stronger hand if it could indicate support by numbers of members.

An Australian-wide National Marine Safety Committee position is being formulated on compulsory wearing of PFDs ...

<http://www.nmsc.gov.au/documents/PFD%20Webpage/documents/PFD%20Discussion%20Paper%20Final%20Report.pdf>

...and members are asked to copy any responses to that survey to the BOA as well. (Sue's impression was that the proposals will make no difference to normal prudent cruising activities, but the document is worth reading to ensure nothing draconian is likely to be imposed on us.)

Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 December. Members accepted an offer by Sue and Tony to hold the next meeting on board "*Vida*" (location on the day to be advised!), with a Christmas flavour.

Meeting closed well after 9pm, with members thanking Alan for his hospitality and expressing their admiration for his lovely boat.

Tony Partridge (with apologies, but no responsibility for errors and omissions!)
