

S&S34 Association - President's Report 2013-2014

I believe 2013-2014 has been challenging for sailing in Western Australia general. Although some areas of our sport have seen a bit of a resurgence, I can not necessarily say the same for some other aspects including the S&S34 Association. Despite the committees great intentions at last years AGM in an attempt to re-invigorate our associations activities very little has been achieved. Mainly due to the challenges we set ourselves, and what I believe the committee members being time poor. And, as your President I apologise for that lack of attention. Unfortunately my own other activities have not helped this situation and I have not been able to commit the time that I may have originally expected I would; however it was highlighted that my time this year was already stretched. The committee and I still believe there is life in the association – just as long as we continue to take interest in our wonderful S&S34's.

Last year it was decided that the committee would work on a strategic plan for the association. This was agreed, however as indicated previously, due to the committee members other activities this was not started. However, I still believe that this is an important activity that the new committee should pursue if the members still see it as important. So, I hope to see continued support for that activity from the AGM attendees.

So, rather than focusing initially on the negatives of this year I will focus on the positives. This year we saw Simon & Rosemary Torvaldsen's Blondie take a good crack at the offshore racing scene. They took it right up to the newer boats and surprised many sailors in their efforts; including what I believe to be the best achievement in the Geraldton Race. I know there was a number of arm-chair sailors (including myself) sitting on the edge of their chairs on the Saturday night watching Blondie approach Geraldton slowly creeping up the leader-board only to be beaten by the abating breeze within the bay at Geraldton. And, I believe the return race was just as exciting with Blondie's performance. There were many other offshore races that Blondie competed extremely well in this year. Noticeably the most talk around the offshore sailing scene and beyond was Blondie reviving the Blooper; with a huge thread of chatter on FreoDoctor after that initial race. Since then there has been increased chatter of blooper revivals amongst the old masthead spinnaker boats.

Many of our cruising owners have been busy this year as well, and not just necessarily on the cruising front but also the maintenance front as well. A number of 34's received new hearts (engines) over this last year, as well as I am sure many more hours spent on refurbishing some of these cruising 34's. I feel that this resurgence in refurbishing our beautiful design was initially inspired by Geoff Connor and the excellent work done on Kungari.

On the downside this year, after the resurgence of the S&S34 Swan River Racing competition, this years races were poorly attended despite the number of boats that originally nominated. With Swagman not competing very much this year due to loss of crew, and other sailing activities, and Blondie now being based at Fremantle; this ultimately meant that some of the stalwarts of Swan River Racing left a big gap in the fleet. However, Phil Somerville-Ryan's purchase of Huckleberry from Steve Humphries supplemented the fleet. However, despite 5-6 yachts nominating for each of the 3 races only 2-3 actually sailed. However, from all reports and despite the lack of 34's the combined Division 2 races at RPYC, SoPYC & RFBYC saw huge numbers on the starting line with great competition – so ultimately all was not lost.

This year we also saw a number of S&S34's changing hands with our Treasurer Jim Putt and Webmaster Simon Torvaldsen keeping track of these changes. And, I welcome the new owners to this magnificent design which I hope will bring as much joy to them as it has me over the years.

This year we again struggled with the Commodore's Perpetual Trophy Race; however even though we had enough boats for the Commodores that attended numbers were still down. The FSC Sailing Office did a great job of pulling everything together with very little history of the event handed over to the new incumbents there. However, with the learnings that both the association and FSC had about this years event there is no doubt that we will be able to continue this activity in the coming years. Plus, the timing of the event is a little better suited this year against the offshore calendar, and it is still doubled-up on the same weekend as the Algal Bloom Leighton Race. Which I believe the association should embrace to get more S&S34's out there in the yachting community's eye. Also, the Swan River Retro Yacht Series have indicated that some S&S34's have been involved in their events although it hasn't been noted by those members to the association which is disappointing if this is the case. However, I believe this series is another opportunity for our 34's to be involved.

I would like to announce the 2013-2014 Swan River Racing Champion. Past-President Colin Sanders initiated this during his tenure in absence of any other association championship presentation.

	Boat Name	Skipper/Owner	Race 1 RFBYC	Race 2 RPYC	Race 3 SoPYC
1st	Perie Banou III	Colin & Eleanor Sanders	2 (2)	2 (4)	2 (6)
2nd	Huckleberry	Phil Somerville-Ryan	1 (1)	DNC (6) 7	1 (8)
3rd	Kungari	Geoff Connor	DNC 6 (6)	1 (7)	DNC 6 (13)
	Individual	Rob Elliot-Lockhart	DNC 6 (6)	3 (9)	DNC 6 (15)
	Swagman	Andrew & Vera Waldby	3 (3)	DNC 6 (9)	DNC 6 (15)
	Sweet Surrender	Chris & Amanda Rose	DNC 6 (6)	DNC 6 (12)	DNC 6 (18)
	Sulphur	Dick Newnham	DNC 6 (6)	DNC 6 (12)	DNC 6 (18)

The results of Race 1 at **RFBYC**:

1st – Huckleberry (Phil Somerville-Ryan)

2nd – Perie Banou III (Colin & Eleanor Sanders)

3rd & Fastest – Swagman (Andrew & Vera Waldby)

Nominated but Did not Compete – Sulphur (Dick Newnham), Sweet Surrender (Chris & Amanda Rose) & Individual (Rob Elliot-Lockhart)

The results of Race 2 at **RPYC**:

1st & Fastest – Kungari (Geoff Connor)

2nd – Perie Banou III (Colin & Eleanor Sanders)

3rd – Individual (Rob Elliot-Lockhart)

Nominated but Did not Compete – Sulphur (Dick Newnham)

The results of Race 3 at **SoPYC**:

1st – Huckleberry (Phil Somerville-Ryan)

2nd & Fastest – Perie Banou III (Colin & Eleanor Sanders)

Did not Compete – Sulphur (Dick Newnham), Individual (Rob Elliot-Lockhart) & Kungari (Geoff Connor)

This last year has been my second year as President of which I took on reluctantly due to my personal and work commitments, which these commitments continue into the next 2 years. So, in light of that I will not be seeking or agreeing to be nominated for re-election as President. I believe with the commitment of association members, and the elected committee we can continue to taking the association forward.

Finally I would like to thank my wife Vera Waldby (also association Secretary) for her support and assistance over the last year. I would also like to thank the association committee for their support as well, and that with an injection of new blood into the committee to assist those that may remain we will continue to be a strong association.

Thank you and I appreciate your support.

Andrew Waldby
President S&S34 Association