SABRE TRADEMARK HAS BEEN HANDED OVER – NOW WE CAN REALLY GET MOVING

It is with a great deal of relief that the SSAA can advise that Brett Young has agreed to transfer the trademark over the term ‘Sabre’ to an independent ‘friend of the Sabres’ who will allow unconditional use by the class. This has removed the need for the SSAA to undertake legal action to reclaim the right of the class to manage its own affairs. It concludes a very difficult period for the class and we are grateful for Brett’s goodwill in assigning the trademark in recent days.

Additionally, we have been advised by Brett that his 2 moulds are being transferred to Craig Nyland in WA and to Martyn Sly in Melbourne. Brett is spending time with each of Craig and Martyn to explain the techniques adopted in producing the YMS boats as we have known them up until now.  As all in the Sabre community will know by now - this has been a difficult period for the national association and for Brett. For those who have not read the detailed material put up on this website over the past month - there are very different opinions between the SSAA and Brett in relation to the adequacy and interpretation of the Sabre’s measurement rules. According to Brett, the extent of these differences and the potential ramifications for the class were sufficiently important for him to trademark the term ‘Sabre’ so that he could have a means of getting these areas addressed. Brett exhibits a passion for the Sabre class and its plywood heritage and does not want to see it drift away from this to its detriment.   With the trademark issue having been all-consuming for the past 3 weeks - we are now in a position to embark on what will be a busy agenda for the national body. With a new (initially acting) president Alan Wilson (from Qld), and others joining the committee at the AGM - we are resourcing up well. We will be similarly adding resources to the measurement area to ensure that the time intensive day-to-day operational issues do not interfere with our busy strategic agenda in this area. We want to move quickly to introducing mould and builder licensing for FRP Sabres and will preface this with a round of engaging with all existing FRP Sabre builders around Australia. We also want to re-issue the charter document for a vote after further consideration of issues raised in the months since it was put up in August.  There is no denying that Brett has been at the forefront during 2014 in forcing the SSAA to consider areas like licensing, improving copyright protection, introducing a charter document to preface the measurement rules and putting a sharp focus on ensuring that FRP boats can only be built in shapes that can be achieved by measuring traditional stitch & glue plywood Sabres. As most of you will realise - change isn’t always easy, and Brett’s approach to this has not been to hold back. As the national body though it is our job to protect the class and to take input from a broad array of sources - and this has clearly led to areas of conflict with Brett who we acknowledge does bring enormous experience re the Sabres and the measurement process generally. And we remain open to any specific suggestions, proposals or concerns raised by Brett or any other of the Sabre builders.  As we have indicated in our earlier update for members - we will be focussing heavily in the period ahead to tighten our measurement rules and other means to ensure that we have adequate protection over the shape of the Sabre. And any new moulds created from mid 2014 onward will be subject to these rules.  Stay tuned - we hope to see as many of you in Adelaide at the end of next month as possible - and may this be the start of a great period for our great national class.

 On behalf of the committee of the Sabre Sailing Association of Australia. 20 November 2014