

# Tas Sabre News January 2011



Note from Editor- Apologies for the big absence in newsletters. I've had lots of personal changes so there hasn't been much energy for writing. All settled now so back into regular newsletters.

## Upcoming events

### **Crown Series at Bellerive 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February.**

This is the biggest regatta in Tassie with over 90 keel boats and 120 dinghies running over a range of courses.

The atmosphere is fantastic at the regatta with so many sailors ,families and friends enjoying the club facilities, food and entertainment. We have always had a great rollup of Sabres at the event which makes it an ideal way of sailing with other Sabre sailors away from our normal clubs.

Entry forms are available from the Bellerive Yacht Club website. Great prizes for dinghy classes!

### **Tas State Titles**

This year our states are at Deviot on weekend of March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. NOR and SIs will be available soon. Deviot is located on the Tamar and has a laid-back country feel. We usually camp on the club's grounds and a good weekend of racing as well as socializing is assured. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Note – entrants need to be members of the Tas Sabre Association. Membership form attached to end of newsletter. Forward to Secretary –Chris Keil ( If you're lazy like many of us you can do all the paperwork on first morning of racing).

## New boats

Dallas Hope has his new boat finished and rumoured to be named "Banshee" . He's still to finish rigging.

Unfortunately he's head down finishing his Uni studies with zero time to sail till project is finished.

Rowan Clark has his new boat "Rock It " in the water. In his first race session on the weekend at LSC he showed excellent pace in the tricky conditions. The older sailors sure have some serious competition on their hands with younger sailors such as Rowan in the class.



Rowan's new boat about to be launched at Lindisfarne. A family build with Rowan's father Brett and grandfather Des building a magnificent craft.

## **Nationals at South Australia**

There was a good roll up of 70 boats at Brighton-Seacliffe where Chris Dance won the title convincingly in mainly light winds. The Keil family from Midway Pt. were the only entrants from Tassie this year- maybe we were all a bit weary after the Nats .here in Hobart.

Chris, Lauren and Matt sailed well with Lauren and Matt gaining excellent experience in a big fleet as well as heaps of fun.

Next year the Nats. are at Blai Gowrie, Victoria which is a lot closer for us Tassie travellers. Organisers are expecting to match the 100 boat fleet the last time the Nats were held there. There's sure to be a big contingent of Tassie sailors heading over.

## **Tying Knots**

Andrew( Nana) and Kali were married in January. Congratulations and best wishes from all Sabre sailors to them both.

Given we haven't seen Nana out sailing for some time there were many who were worried marriage may have done him in. He assures me all is okay and he'll be back to sailing soon.

## **Cut down sails**

Lindisfarne has tried this with great success for beginner or smaller sailors. Basically we grabbed some second hand sails and had ~500mm cut off the bottom with a little extra at the clew to lift boom end up ( easier for adult beginners). The Sabre still sails surprisingly well with the small rig and has allowed beginners to still get out training even when the wind is up. A couple of juniors are keen to give them a try sailing in the afternoons.

## Boats changing hands.

There's probably heaps I don't know of but here's a few-

Rowan sold "Hooligan" to Owen Davies who sails at Kingston Beach . He's keen to get other Sabres going at Kingston.

Steve Snell who sails at Montrose Bay has purchased "Wind Wizard".

LSC has purchased "Clewed Up" for use as a training boat.



Here's Dallas' Sabre being constructed by students at Claremont College.

## *Sabres for Sale*

There always seems to be people looking for a boat so here's a list from info people have given me-

Sabre 1383 "Xenica" Good condition, ready to race with wooden trolley.

\$1500

Call Dave on 0458876565.

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Sabre 1761 "Alibi"

Ply home built boat launched 2009

A class certificate, Walker radial cut main, Ronstan gear, 7<sup>th</sup> at 2010 Nats. 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 States.

\$4150 ono.

Call John on 040679665

## **More for sale**

Sabre "Chief" located at Dover.

\$ 1800 Call Paddy on 0428604761

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Sabre 1747 “Alchemy” \$4200

Westland built hull in 2008 using best ply and epoxy.

Stiff and minimum weight. A certificate.

Custom alloy trolley with UV cover.

Walker full cut main, Silva racing compass, Balsa rudder, cedar c/board.

All top equipment. 2009 State champion, 2008 6<sup>th</sup> at Nationals.

Call Ian on 0409687302.

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Name: Footloose

Sail #: 1408

Builder: Brett Clarke (Lindisfarne)

Weight: 43 kg

Price: \$2,200

Currently available for inspection at Lindisfarne Sailing Club

Please call Dallas on: 0421 922 420

## Sail faster tip

Given we spend more time sailing upwind than any other point of sailing it is vital to have good upwind VMG if you are to have a chance of being with the leaders at the finish line. There are two approaches to getting upwind- 1. High and slow or 2. Low and fast. The top sailors will alternate between these modes depending on the situation. For example high and slow works well in moderate air and flat water. Low and fast works best in very choppy seas. What isn't so obvious to mid-fleet sailors is the top sailors will alternate between these quite quickly. For example they might sail lower if some big waves are approaching or if a flat patch of water appears they will sail higher. The Sabre is quite full in the bow so it isn't able to punch through waves so easy. It's a matter of coaching the boat up, around and over every wave in a big seaway. What the Sabre does have is light weight so it will accelerate easily up to speed.

It's also easily stopped if you plow the bow into a series of big waves.

Many top sailors combine the two approaches in a fluid combination that takes experience and feel to get right.

It might be like this-

Ease sheet a bit whilst steering lower to build some speed. Immediately steer up and trim on. As soon as speed drops from hitting waves – back down again to get speed and so on.

Sometimes this can be combined to fit in with waves. Because of wave physics it is faster to steer higher up the faces and steer lower down the backs of waves. That sounds like a lot of rudder movements ( and yes they do slow the boat) but the gains are greater than losses because the Sabre is so light. Try this on a heavy dinghy and the result won't be as good.

You may be thinking well I can't steer up and down over every little wave. True- but there comes a time when the waves are big enough to warrant this. It might just be the sets which come along every now and then. It might be most waves depending on the size of the sea or swell. Some people describe the action as “Stabbing Upwind”. Each little turn upwind gets you closer to the mark and if you can do this whilst keeping good speed you will get to the top mark faster than if you just kept the tiller dead still. There are heaps of sailing books which say keep the tiller still. In some situations yes you will go faster, but once there are decent waves the story changes for lightweight dinghies.

In the next newsletter I'll try to put in a video link which shows some sailors using this technique.

The best exponent of this technique I've seen at a local level is Jeremy Fish.

At a National level I once was close enough to Callum Burns to see him using very similar techniques in waves. ( he won those Nationals). Both these sailors sail very fast upwind. Something there I think!

Have fun getting faster.  
matt.



Jeremy Fish hiking hard.

# *The Sabre Sailing Association of Tasmania*

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***Fun at the Sharp End***



## *APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND BOAT REGISTRATION FOR THE 2010-11 SEASON.*

I.....  
of.....  
email address.....  
Contact Number.....

Wish to apply for Renewal/Membership as set out below.

Family Membership. (one boat)	\$40.00	.....
Each additional boat.	\$15.00	.....
Senior Membership.	\$30.00	.....
Junior Membership. Under 18 (1/7/09)	\$25.00	.....
Associate Membership.	\$15.00	.....

Total Fee enclosed \$.....

Please list boats covered by this application:

Sail Number	Boat Name	Skipper	Club
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

Signed..... Date.../.../.....

Sabre Sailing Association of Tasmania  
My State Financial BSB 807 009 ACC 12115421  
Please ensure boat Sail No or Name is included with any transactions