

AMS

Australian Measurement System

Half Year Newsletter
March 2010



SMS

Sportsboat Measurement System

The Australian Measurement System (AMS) and Sportsboat Measurement System (SMS) continue to grow and the AMS is now into its twelfth year of operation. In 2008-09 approximately 280 rating certificates and year books were issued and in the current year this has increased to 400 in the year to date, October 1st to September 30th.

Tasmania has adopted the AMS and SMS and has significantly expanded the keelboat and sportsboat fleet sailing on measurement ratings. The recent prestigious Crown Regatta featured Divisions sailing on these systems and AMS was the largest rating system used, with nearly twice as many entries as the International System. The AMS also featured in all of the Victorian ocean races to Tasmania during January, together with the new Launceston to Hobart race.

Sport

New rating system on a roll



CRUISING: Jeff Cordell skippering his yacht Host Plus on the Derwent.

THE introduction of a new rating system to the Hobart sail racing fleet this season worked better than Jeff Cordell had imagined.

Cordell, the skipper of division one flyer Host Plus, instigated the new rule for Tasmanian yachts.

He said the Australian Rating System was cheaper and more appealing than the traditional IRC system, making it more attractive for yacht owners to race under AMS.

The AMS handicap was conceived in Victoria, where it has been in place for about 12 years.

Cordell brought it to Tasmania last year to try and entice local yacht owners back into racing.

"We were finding there was a decline or static level of people racing IRC and many cited the cost as an issue for them to have a rating certificate," Cordell said.

"We looked at various options and got talking to the people in Victoria

involved in developing their own rule, AMS, which is significantly cheaper."

Cordell was surprised how fast it was taken onboard by owners.

"The take up has been excellent. We've got 36 boats in its first year, which is better than we expected by a factor of at least two," he said.

"Now we have the potential in the Crown Series next weekend of AMS being run across various classes, which has never happened before, it has only ever been division one."



YACHTING
James Bresnehan

Cordell, a 46-year-old electrical technician at the CSIRO, does the measuring for AMS certificates.

"It's the same as IRC with one additional measurement, being to the transom width," he said.

"Most people can go straight from IRC to AMS, and a lot of people are doing both, so there's no extra work to be done."

The AMS rule is administered through Yachting Victoria.

"That helps to keep the costs down, because a lot of the overheads in administering the rule are taken up by goodwill and volunteers," Cordell said.

The Crown Series, run by the Bellerive Yacht Club in conjunction with several other clubs, looks set to host a record fleet of about 250 boats next weekend.

"The support is top class. It's fantastic to have so many boats there," Cordell said.

There has been continued growth in interest in AMS amongst keelboat sailors who recognise that the system delivers close results, at a much lower cost. The fact that the system is based in Australia is

also an advantage as we are able to monitor anomalies and provide a personalised response to queries. During the past 12 months we have also added new features to the data base including automatic inclusion of No Spinnaker and Two Handed ratings on all certificates issued for 2009-10.

The Sportsboat Measurement System has grown rapidly over the past 2 years with approximately 100 boats taking part in very close racing in many locations around the country. This is a national system with Measurers in most states and we expect that the numbers participating will continue to grow. The provisional ratings issued during the past two years have been monitored and the mathematics of the system has been refined to produce what is now a stand alone SMS rating system, to apply from October 1st 2009.

Darren Spence, Technical Committee Chairman for the Australian Sportsboat Association advises that the Asian Sports Boat Championships, 15-19 November 2010, will be held at Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and will be sailed on SMS ratings for the first time. The following press release summarises the importance of this event.

"The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club will host the Asian Sports Boat Championships, 15-19 November 2010, in Hong Kong. The last championships, held in 2007, was huge fun and highly competitive with many World European and Asian champions in attendance, not forgetting some Volvo Ocean Race skippers. The level of competition was intense in perfect 20 knots of breeze, and the exciting social programme was of epic proportions!"

RHKYC has kindly allocated the week after the annual Ball and before the Tomes Cup and the Around the Island Race (in which 250 boats compete). Winds are usually around 15-20 knots and it will be sunny, guaranteed! We already have interest from New Zealand, Oman and Europe, and it is likely that the Longtze circuit teams from France will attend. There are over 30 sportsboats in Hong Kong and some will be available for charter, so we may well have over 60 boats on the start line. 'Judging by the last event it will be a highly competitive regatta' said Peter Backe, President of the Magic 25 and Sports Boat Association in Hong Kong.

November is the high point of the yachting calendar for Hong Kong, and this event is the second of the sportsboat regatta circuit for the Asia Pacific region. The event is becoming more international with entries likely from Europe, America and the Middle East.

The week kicks off with the annual Ball at RHKYC - one of Hong Kong's finest parties - and will conclude with the Around the Island Race. On the lay-day various options will be given to visitors such as tours of Hong Kong, horse racing at Happy Valley, BBQs and junk trips. Racing will be predominantly sailed to the south of Hong Kong, off Lamma Island from the Middle Island base of the RHKYC. Passage races to and from the race course will take competitors through the spectacular Victoria Harbour, and we have planned Island races to show off our spectacular coastline and the excellent sea food at our island beach restaurants.

Handicaps will be under the Australian SMS system so everyone has a fair crack of the whip! The post-sailing events will be in keeping with the regatta and will be hosted by the RHKYC and other outlets. Lots of socializing is promised, to allow sailors to excel at what they do best!"



A project to establish the SMS in Turkey for the coming northern hemisphere summer season is progressing well, with recent meetings confirming a local structure using the facilities of Kalamış Sailing Club, appointment of a Measurer and plans for training additional Measurers. We anticipate a starting fleet of 30 to 50 boats.

We also successfully completed our annual weighing day in Victoria on September 13th, in between storm force weather systems. Thanks to our

group and all of the other volunteers who turn up each year to make this day possible. In particular Angus Fletcher, John Duffin and others mentioned below.

As rating systems often come and go we are pleased with the result and look forward to continued growth in the numbers participating in AMS and SMS events. On behalf of all certificate holders we recognise the twenty or more measurers and other volunteers who make these systems work. In particular, Lova Paszko, Peter Coleman and Darren Spence have devoted many hours to the upgrading and running of the systems. We would also like to welcome Alex McKinnon to the Rating Office.

John Chatham
Measurement Rating Group.

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