

# ***This Sporting Life***

## **Fourth Great Bar Race Bar Fleet Conquers the Elements**

The *Fourth Great Bar Race* boasted a record 45 pre-race entrants. The southerly gale and squally conditions did not deter 24 courageous skippers (and their apprehensive crews) from facing the starter's gun. There was to be no heaving to, storm jibs, applications for adjournment or such other nonsense from this intrepid lot!

Egan (of Counsel), who it seems really ought to have been declared the winner, reported to the Official Starter, Officer of the Day and Commander of the Fleet (who shall remain nameless), that many of his learned colleagues had not rounded Naval Buoy No. 2 where the Australian Naval Fleet (or what is left of it) is usually moored. Unconfirmed reports indicated that it was undertaking fleet exercises on Lake Burley Griffin. The fact that it wasn't there no doubt confused most of the skippers. The temerity of Egan's plea in mitigation was rewarded by the summary dismissal of his craft "Misty" and he was struck out of the race and marked "did not finish".

In between the rain, wind, squalls, rolling seas and, no doubt, more than a few sherbets of Tooheys the Commander of the Fleet, in a blanket finish, had inadvertently missed the passage of Egan's sail number over the finish line which would have given him a win on corrected time.

This historic event, however, had been recorded on a secret Nixon-brand video recorder which is to be donated to the Race Committee for use in all future races. Alas, it was discovered too late to have his action restored to the list and his cause was lost.

Final judgment was entered in favour of Robinson in "Bella Blue" who took the Law Book Company Sailing Trophy. He was closely followed by Nock in "Freedom Bound" (2nd) and Tomasetti in "Aston" (3rd). Egan graciously declined to file a Notice of Appeal which saved him the dozen Dewars filing fee.

Foster J. in "Bonfire", (one of which was sorely needed on Store Beach — see accompanying photograph) a regular competitor, was rewarded with the "Chalfont Cup" for competition amongst Judges and Silks.

The Bar Association again kindly donated pewters for the competition. All skippers who did not round Naval Buoy No. 2 are to attend this year's first reading lecture as their punishment at which the necessity for careful reading of one's brief (sailing instructions) will be the theme.

Special thanks to Mr. John Phillips and Granger who kindly made available "MV Viking" as the starter's boat. The Race Committee also wishes to thank all those on board who kindly assisted in ensuring a good weather eye was kept on the start and finish of the race as well as maintaining an adequate supply of liquid refreshments. □

Des Kennedy



*Some of the hardy souls who braved the elements.*