

# POWER DINGHY RACER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN  
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS DINGHY ASSOCIATION

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## NEXT MEETING

October 11th, 8p.m.  
The Palms, Cnr Rokeby and  
Nicholson Rds

## NEXT RACES

- BLACKWOOD CLASSIC 250  
2nd, 3rd, 4th October
- BLESSING OF THE FLEET  
24th October

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

BALDIVIS RESULTS

1957 AVON WINNER

## MOORE RIVER SPRINT - BALDIVIS

On the Sunday prior to the race day, the river at Robby Rathbone's place looked OK. However after 2 hours, Benny's Road was reached, the guys naturally somewhat p..... off.

It certainly did not look good for the following Sunday. We decided to check out the next section of the race. After 1 hour and walking in ankle deep water, the decision would be to cancel the race if there was insufficient rain in the right areas (although for 158 there was enough water - right Craig ?- ed.).

Unfortunately it didn't happen, so one of the better races on the calendar was cancelled.

Baldivis was the alternative, you only have to mention racing at Baldivis and it rains. On top of that the wind was blowing a gale. However, it didn't dampen the spirits of the 26 racers (too much Jim was in supply -ed.). The 26 racers being split 50:50 sports/standard.

Racing was extremely competitive, with 4 glass boats being driven for the 1st time.

## RESULTS

Sports	
1st R. Thomas & B. Barden	24
2nd F. Berloth & G. Powu-Bray	19
3rd J. SKewes & P. Hink	14
4th D. Wright & M. Holland	12
5th B. Paris & T. Pedlar	10
6th T. Kitcher & J. Dickson	5
7th R. Fitchett & S. McKinnon	3
8th J. Evans & J. Evans	2
9th G. Evans & D. Austin	
10th K. Pratter & S. Forest	
DNF J. Hodgkinson & T. Hodgkinson	
DNF G. Hall & S. Admas	
DNF J. George & P. Russo	

There were some good thrill, quite a few spills, and some near misses.

The flipper award for the day had to go to Gary Evans & Darren Austin. Everyone lost count.

Blaise Paris was showing some good form in his ex-Team Velmade boat. The proof in the pudding went to Rod Thomas & Brent Barden in Sports and Mick Chittick & Denis Peach in standard.

The standard guys forgot how to count to 15, after several broken starts, they were called in and given a basic lesson in arithmetic on how to count to 15. They certainly learned very quickly, the next 4 heats were the most exciting and closely contested starts of the day. All spectators were on their tip toes to see who got to the 1st buoy.

Thank you to the following helpers : Keith & Leslie Brooker, Stewart Maxwell, and a new trainee in the Recovery Boats. Lynne Berloth and Colleen Skews for lap times, Peter Street and Neville Watson for flags.

Glen Skewes.

Standard	
1st D. Peach & M. Chittick	30
2nd B. Watson & J. Taylor	24
3rd S. Tregurtha & M. Terhurtha	17
4th D. Stolp & J. Watson	7
5th J. Street & P. Gault	4
6th G. McNamara & P. Gault	
7th M. Lenz & N. Dwyer	
8th C. Hills & S. Hills	
9th C. Pitsikas & L. Evans	
10th A. Bullard & M. King	
11th J. GALE & G. Green	
12th K. Griffiths & L. Goddard	
DNF J. Haynes & S. Bennett	

## PDRC COMMODORE'S REPORT

This year's Blackwood Classic 250 is shaping up to be a great event. Race Director and Deputy Race Director Kim Epton have certainly been working hard to re-introduce the social aspects of the race and bring back the great atmosphere which made the Blackwood a great weekend.

In addition, the race booklet is far more comprehensive. Although there are some errors which have been detected, the finished result is a large improvement, and hopefully will assist in the smooth operation of the event. It is also to be noted the section regarding WASDA is wrong. WASDA is the controlling body and will, in the case of rule discrepancy, overrule the Blackwood Classic 250. This along with other last minute information will be distributed at registration. To all entered, good luck and safe racing!

We are approaching WASDA to seek approval for the use of water at Katrine Bridge for trials prior to the Avon. in addition the opportunity may exist for power boats to enter the valley on the Pre-Avon practice day for a supervised run to Upper Swan. These two issues will take time to be resolved and I will keep you posted.

## CLUB NEWS

### SOCIAL EVENTS

Family Fun Day - 29th October 1993  
Come and enjoy a day of fun at Rottnest. BYO food and drinks, and join in the games on the beach. Inflatables will be over there for the kids (big & little) to go for a burn around the harbour. Contact Lyn for more details. Final numbers required by 22nd October 1993.

Kid Xmas Party  
By way of early notice, this year it is planned to have the Kid's Xmas party at the Zoo. Anyone who would like to help out with organising, contact Lyn.

Adult's Xmas Party  
Once again by way of early notice, this year it is planned to have the Adult's Xmas party at the Spectacles. The theme will be the Wild West. That is, as in cowboys, cowgirls, & indians.



### RULE PROPOSALS.

Change of name for the Pee Wee class to Rookie's Formula 8.  
Proposed - Ben Fairhurst  
Seconded - Todd Williamson

Rules relating to numbers will be strictly enforced for the remainder of the season. In particular - "seen clearly from both sides."

For the rule relating to stick on numbers - if you intend using stick ons (after the Blackwood when the rule comes in force) - remember to carry spare numbers.

## DINGHY DITTIES

Musical Chairs - Part 1  
Not to be out done by the Formula One "silly season" of driver changes, the dinghy racing scene is full of team changes. Gone is the pairing of the two Rob's, the two Goodbody's (pre-Avon change), Justin & Russell in 105, and of course Craig is standing on the bank (for the time being).

Musical Chairs - Part 2  
When the music stops with the team changes, a few drivers look to be without partners. It looks as though there is one area where there is full employment - being a deckie.

The Bathtub & F8 season is fast approaching. Will the Watson's try and take out all three WASDA titles -1st, 2nd, 3rd - with a family entry (father, son, & daughter)?

After having their photo on cover half a page in the West Australian, 117 are all geared up for a big assault next year. Who needs kevlar when you can make a boat out of beer cans for nothing.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SEPTEMBER 1993

Sports		Standard		Alloy	
Frank Berloth	346	Dennis Peach	540	George Cox	280
Grant Powu-Bray	346	Mick Chittick	540	Graham Blinkow	280
Trevor Gerrick	300	Cameron Wilkie	147	Jamie McAllister	160
Craig Whatley	300	Peter Carboni	147	David McAllister	160
Justin Skewes	260	Kim Webb	100	Colin Heitman	120
Peter Hink	260	Michael Webb	100	Howard Bathgate	120
Rod Thomas	240	Keith Parnell	100		
Russell Wilson	140	Graham Black	100		
Justin Ferguson	140				
Justin Howarth	140				

## THE "FIRST" AVON WINNER

As hundreds of white water enthusiasts get ready to risk the Avon River descent, the man who did it first has a confession to make.

Colin Arcus is the Wembley man whose homemade galvanised iron canoe Bwap won the first race from Northam to Perth in 1957.

"I must admit that I cheated - I had a sail hidden under a bush at Bassendean and that let us take it easy over the final few miles while the others had to keep paddling when they were pretty tired," he said.

It was a cold wet journey for Colin (then 26), Ron Holmes (29) of Wembley and Gordon Cornish (30) of West Leederville, who were all members of the City Beach Surf Club.

The name of the boat, Bwap, stood for Buy West Australia-made Products.

### Friendly

They left Northam at 7 am on Saturday, June 29, and reached Barrack Street jetty on Monday afternoon - delighted to get there under three days.

It was a friendly race with Bwap and the other boats Rusty Bucket and Sanisybi II staying within shouting distance most of the way.

Colin recalls: "A Northam chap tried first in 1955 but failed. I heard about it and decided to have a go in '56. But that was a dry year and I had to give up."

"In 1957 there was plenty of rain. The dam broke just at the start and we were doing nearly 30 miles an hour down the rapids."

A friend driving a Ford utility provided backup on the shore at the first overnight stop near Toodyay, but got bogged the next day.

The paddlers had ordinary raincoats and food stashed in water-tight lockers under the seat of their 11ft boat which cost \$26 to build.

Colin has never been tempted to go again - he watches the modern Avon descent on television and admires the skill and speed of the boat that cover in hours the course he did in less than three days.

Newspaper reports in 1957 said that one of the opposition paddlers gave up after getting lost in fog and exhausting himself paddling the wrong way.

Reprinted from the Claremont Community Newspaper.



## P.D.R.C. CLASSIFIEDS

For additions to this section please contact the office on 490 1714

### WHERE TO GO

SIGNWRITING - NUMBERS ETC.  
COMPUTER LETTERING. PDRC MEMBERS  
DISCOUNT :

Jarrold Street Ph 249 4154  
a/h 249 3062

### ALUMINIUM WELDING :

Frank Berloth 398 1800 -  
(Racing dinghies, engine reinforcing,  
fuel tanks, transom frames etc)

### SURFACING PROPELLERS :

Arthur Fairhurst 459 8360  
Frank Berloth 398 1800 -  
(as same price agent for Arthur)

### RUBBER GEARBOXES :

Frank Berloth 398 1800  
Rod Thomas 417 2502

### ENGINES & MECHANICAL SERVICE:

Frank Berloth 398 1800

### KEVLAR BOATS & REPAIRS

Rod Thomas 417 2502

### TRANSOM JACKS :

Kevin Green 364 7820

### FOR SALE

Thomas Craft 1992 Build Dinghy - \$2,750.

Enquiries Rod Thomas ph 417 2502.

Formula 8 with or without 7.5 merc.

offers. Ph Peter on 276 2925

### 5 Belgium Motors. Red hot off the container and race ready. P.O.A.. Phone Frank

117 Race trailer 6'x4' excellent condition.  
Canopy plus boat rack. \$450 contact Justin or  
Glen Skewes ph 307 7865.

Underwater World boat 002. Kevlar Dinghy 8th  
8 Sport 92 Avon Descent. Ready to race.  
\$2,500. See David Wright.

For Sale - anything and everything. Make an  
offer. Ph 490 1714

3 bathtubs ready to race. Ph 490 1714

Team Velmade - anything & everything.

Everthing must go - Winter stocktake sale.  
1992 Avon boat, 1993 Avon boat, race trailer,  
up to 5 motors, props, shafts, gears, life  
jackets, helmets, rubber gear boxes.

Fibreglass boat - race ready for sports - raced  
once only \$2,000. Contact Graham 380 2753  
W/h, or Bill 387 6840 A/h.

2 7.5hp Mercs. 1 Tin , 1 Kevlar boat. For  
more info ph 249 4747 or 018 940 355, or see  
boat 163.

Fibreglass Boat - \$800. Merc 8hp ex. con. -  
\$1,300. Ph Scott George 458 4716.

### WANTED

Life jacket to fit 12 yr old in good condition ph  
448 7107.

Lightweight, keen deckie for Blackwod  
Classic 250. Contact John Haynes  
ph 459 7023.