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THE RUDDER CUP.

Dictated by Graham A. Warner on November 7, 1977.

The circumstances surrounding the running of the first Bass Straight race held in 1908 are best obtained by reading a book written and published by one of the contestants who was I believe associated with the Age newspaper. About 100 copies of this limited edition book were printed.

Another reference is the Rudder Magazine (published in the United States) which published a complete account of the race I think in the year 1908.

I have read both the book and the magazine articles but at the time of writing these are not available for reference. There is no substitute for reading the contemporary accounts of which there are numerous copies allegedly available in Melbourne. However from memory the editor of Rudder Magazine was a member of the New York Yacht Club (if not the Commodore), he became friendly with the Commodore of the Geelong Yacht Club a Mr. Dickenson. The Rudder Magazine donated a cup for the first Bass Straight race. This race was run by the Geelong Yacht Club starting at Queenscliff and finishing at Low Head.

The Bass Straight race was won by a boat by the name of Thistle and the cup was presented to the owner a Mr. E. Newlands. There is good reason to believe that this cup was intended to be won outright and was not intended as a perpetual trophy because the year of the race is prominently featured in the inscription as is the winner in such a manner as would not be the case if it was intended there were to be subsequent winners.

Early in 1968 I approached Mr. Edgar Newlands, son of Edgar Newlands the winner and requested that he donate the cup to the Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria which was then the principle and I believe the only Victorian Yacht Club conducting Ocean Races. Mr. Newlands agreed to present the cup to the Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria. There is no doubt in my mind that the Newlands family and in particular Mr. Edgar D. Newlands (who was the son and I believe executor of the Winner E. Newlands) believed that they were the rightfull owners of the cup, a belief no doubt supported by the fact that they had held it for 60 years.

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April 11, 1968.

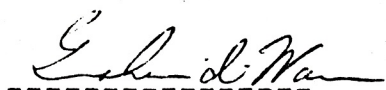
Yacht Club of Victoria.

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The Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria accepted the cup from Edgar D. Newlands in the full belief that this was the case. At the prompting of the club a document was drawn up as evidence of the intentions of the parties concerned a copy of which is attached to this report.

On the 11th April 1968 Mr. Newlands visited my office, I was then working at Astor House South Melbourne, he signed the document referred to above and he handed to me as the club's representative a copy of the book relating to the race, the racing flag of the Thistle flown during the race and the Rudder Cup. A picture was taken at the handing over, copy of which is attached to this report.

I sailed in the first competition for the "Rudder Cup" since 1908 in January 1969. The Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria which has since changed its name to the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria has since complied with the conditions of gift. It should also be born in mind that the Ocean Racint Club of Victoria has now held the "Rudder Cup" and conducted races for this cup for a period of almost 10 years. Notice of these races have been sent to all clubs including the Royal Geelong Yacht Club. One might well ask why the Royal Geelong Yacht Club has waited all this time to raise questions with regard to the "Rudder Cup".



Graham A. Warner.

April 11, 1968.

Yacht Club of Victoria.

NOTICE OF GIFT

I hereby hand over to the safe-keeping of the Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria a Cup donated by the Rudder Magazine of U.S.A. for a race across Bass Strait in 1908 which Cup has come into my possession following the death of my father, Edgar Newlands, the winner of the race for which the Cup was presented, on the following conditions:-

1. The Club will, as often as practicable but not more frequently than once annually, run a race across Bass Strait for which this perpetual trophy is to be raced as the principal Cup although not necessarily the only Cup for that particular race.
2. In the event that the Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria shall fail, for any reason, to run races across Bass Strait for this Cup as the principal trophy for more than three consecutive years, the Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria, or its last Flag Officers if the Club has ceased to function, shall hand over the Cup to the Victorian Yachting Council or its successors who at their absolute discretion are to place the Cup in the hands of some other Club prepared to administer the running of a race across Bass Strait for which this Cup will form the principal perpetual trophy or, if no such Club exists, to any Victorian Club conducting such other ocean race for which this Cup would form a suitable perpetual trophy as the Victorian Yachting Council or its successors or the principal body conducting yachting in this State at the time may decide.
3. The Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria or other Clubs or organised bodies into whose safe-keeping this Cup may be entrusted shall use their best endeavours to maintain this historic Cup in good order and condition as a memento of the first ocean race to be conducted in Australian waters and as a trophy in perpetuity for the Bass Strait race for which it was first donated.

Edgar D. Newlands
(G. Newlands)

On behalf of the Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria I acknowledge receipt of the Rudder Cup from Mr. Newlands and the Committee agrees to accept the Cup on the above conditions.

Graham A. Warner
(Graham A. Warner)
Commodore of the Cruising
Yacht Club of Victoria.

Melbourne
April 11, 1968.

