

Great Bar Race Provides a Memorable Finale to the Law Year

The Fifth Great Bar Race was sailed in moderate NE winds and provided an exciting event for the many hundreds who enjoyed the day including 40 odd skippers, their crews and other less energetic participants.

Sydney Harbour turned on one of its truly sparkling summer days for the race and the presentation of trophies on Store Beach where a veritable army of mainly lily-white, overweight and semi-clad indulgents prompted Foster J., when presenting the Law Book Company Sailing Trophy to remark, with his customary aplomb - "the best argument I have yet seen for the retention of robes."

This year's race saw the presentation for the first time of the "Gruff Crawford Memorial Panache Trophy" being a magnificent tankard donated by some of his friends and colleagues at the Bar for annual presentation to the member of the Junior Bar who displays the greatest degree of panache, either prior to, during the course of or after the race.

The trophy was presented by Mahoney D.C.J. who delivered a reserved judgment on the first winner Talbot R.N., whom it was said had the misfortune to be granted this title by his parents but whose life's endeavours (many of which were shared with Gruff) were stamped with such panache that he was thought to be the logical choice and sentimental favourite for this year's trophy.



"The best argument yet seen for the retention of robes" - Foster J.

There were, nevertheless, many other contenders for the trophy which will do much to ensure that the race never becomes too serious or stuffy. There was Walsh (the winner of the First Great Bar Race) in "The Pink Boat" (a Ben Lexcen design) with his crew dressed in matching cerise and blue sailing shirts and his tactician Peter Sorenson of 18 footer fame. The writer was heartened to be informed that it was not a Joey's old boys reunion!

There was Buchanan Q.C., who skippered "Sounds of Silence", the majority of whose crew apparently missed the start but showed great ingenuity in catching a water taxi to Shark Island where they were able to clamber aboard as he



Morris with Law Book Company Sailing Trophy

rounded the Shark Island mark. This unbounded enthusiasm brought the reward of the "Chalfont Cup" for competition amongst Judges and Silks. There was Kelly who, for some unknown reason, fell overboard when "Blind Justice" had reached the safety of its mooring pen at the CYC.

Unfortunately, the Deed of Gift precluded Wheelahan Q.C. from being eligible. However, as the Officer of the Day, he lent his own unique brand of panache to the day's activities as he held Court on the "MV Lennox", to its skipper O'Connor and a large group of the Bar, who shall remain nameless, and some scantily clad women. More of this dash and panache is promised for next year's race. It is clear, notwithstanding the many distractions of the day, that he kept a firm eye on the race and ensured that the Official Starter did not follow the precedent set in the last year's race and declared that the skipper who was first was in fact first rather than last!

Peter Mooney who skippered "Freight Train" a Freyers 65', gave more than one hour's start to the first boats and literally mowed down the field to finish a creditable sixth. The Law Book Company Sailing Trophy was keenly contested between two old rivals, "Nina", skippered by Peter Morris, and "Freedom Bound" by Nock. It ultimately was Morris who got the nod and Nock the knock (sailing parlance). Third place went to Michael Robinson in the Farr 43 "Vanguard" the steering wheel of which towered over Horler Q.C. when he took the helm at one stage of the race.

All three place getters received pewters kindly donated by the Bar Association and presented by Shand Q.C. who it is said crewed with great distinction, if not panache, on "Anthanta VI".

All in all it was a magnificent day and one that no doubt will be long remembered by all those involved. Congratulations to the Race Committee and thanks to David Goode the official handicapper. Thanks also to John Barrett of the CYC for lending his time and authority as the official starter.

P.S. Congratulations to "Ragamuffin" on its Sydney - Hobart win. Readers will recall that it competed with distinction in the "Third Great Bar Race."

□ Des Kennedy