

Deep Sea Sailing

Geelong Club's Proposal

The Royal Geelong Yacht Club's annual regatta to be held during the Foundation Day week-end is of interest to all yachtsmen in the State. The Victorian outboard motor boat championship will be held, in addition to a lengthy list of yacht and motor yacht handicaps.

Interest, however, will not be confined to the regatta alone, for Geelong members are anxious for an expression of opinion from visiting yachtsmen as to their views of a move to revive the Rudder Cup, or to establish a big deep-sea yacht handicap for the 1929 Christmas season.

In 1907 Geelong club organised the Rudder Cup, a handicap for yachts from Port Phillip Heads to Tamar Heads. Veteran yachtsmen who competed have the happiest of recollections of the event.

Mr E. Newlands, who won the race with *Thistle*, printed a handsomely illustrated book entitled "Across Bass Strait." Mr Walter Wiggs, former secretary of Geelong club, who was a member of the *Shamrock's* crew on that occasion, was among the recipients of these gifts. The race was conducted for the one season, the cup having been given outright by the late Thomas Fleming Day, editor of *The Rudder*.

NIGHT SAILING

Geelong club has quite a number of big craft on its register which would readily enter for a deep-sea handicap. There are in Melbourne many pleasure yachts which have little prospect of success in short distance bay events, and for these, it is felt, a revival of the deep-sea event would have a special appeal. There will be no difficulty in securing a good trophy for the race, which might also be run with a sweepstake.

Those who have competed in the long distance events claim that there is a fascination excelling that of bay yachting. Night sailing has a special appeal. The Royal Geelong Yacht Club inaugurated a 70-mile handicap for last week-end, and so popular was the event that there has been a growing desire for more races of the kind.

THREE ALTERNATIVES

Should the club proceed with a plan for the establishment of a deep-sea handicap there would be three alternatives—to hold the race under similar conditions to the Rudder Cup (from Port Phillip Heads to Tamar Heads), to Tamar Heads and return, or that yachts sail to Hobart, where yachtsmen might then compete in the annual regatta, provided, of course, that Hobart Club took up the matter with the Geelong club and was agreeable to alter the date of its annual regatta to the New Year.

It is a suggestion which might be worthy of consideration by Hobart officials. There would be a good influx of Victoria's big yachts to Hobart for the occasion, and many doubtless would compete.

It would not only be an extra incentive to the Victorian yachtsmen but would give added interest to the Hobart fixture.

As there is an increasing number of large motor yachts in Geelong and elsewhere a motor yacht cruise from Port Phillip Heads to Tamar Heads easily could be arranged in conjunction with the event.