

The Big Rig Debate

As seen in the minutes of the national AGM. The concept of a Big Rig (ie. taller mast and more sail area) is still on the agenda with some of the members of the South Australian and Victorian associations. This development is generally called the Mk III Mosquito referring to a Cat rigged Mosquito with flat top mainsail, longer mast (about 1 metre) and shorter boom. Presumably a Sloop rigged boat could also be developed and would be called the Mk IV Mosquito.

There has been very little debate over the need for this development or the merits of the whole idea. The big rig concept seems to have just resurfaced after the proposal to change the rules to allow for a square head mainsail and larger jib was defeated in a national ballot last year.

The following pages present three letters that are clearly against the idea. The interesting thing to note is that two of the letters were written over 13 years ago. These letters were dug out of the MCASA archives to show members that considerable thought has already been put into this concept and the matter raised a considerable amount of tension in the class back in the 1980's. This shows how long the debate has gone on and it also appears that the basic argument against changing the rig is still valid. The three letters are:

1. Obituary – Death of a Mossy
2. Consulting Engineers Report
3. Windward Mark Yachts

The outcome of the discussion in the 1980's regarding the bigger rig was that the Mosquito associations opposed the idea and it was dropped. The parties that were proposing the Mk III Mosquito went on to design and develop the Taipan independently of the Mosquito associations.

To date, no written submissions have been received in support of the development of the Mk III Mosquito.

If there are any letters of support for the bigger rig then these will be published in the next newsletter.

The Editor
MoszzieNet

Obituary

Mosquito Catamaran (*born: 1966, died: 200?*)

This letter may come as a shock to some of the members of the mosquito association. I would like the letter published so that people know how I feel and hopefully they will let me get on and live what is left of my life in peace.

Yes people I have a terminal disease. It doesn't really matter what it is called but I know that the symptoms have been evident to me for many years. In my early years I was fortunate to have a good life with a lot of activity. When I reached my "middle ages" I went through a period during which many people both professional and amateur tried to advise me of changes I should make to extend my life. I listened a lot and what sounded like commonsense I adopted, and in reflection I believe I have extended my life. That is the positive side.

On the negative side there are a few people out there who are still trying to change me and for what reason I do not know. The thing is that if you don't like what I am then why don't you disassociate yourself from me and leave me to die in peace. I have often thought about euthanasia but I think that would be extremely difficult in view of the fact that there are so many reminders out there of how great I used to be.

Some of you may be reading this and thinking that I am talking about myself, but you would be wrong. I am writing on behalf of the Mosquito catamaran as a class. Many years ago we fought hard to quash the big rig being stuck on top of the rather fragile superstructure. As a result the Taipan was born and some members made the transition into this class to fulfil their needs. The good thing was that the mosquito was still able to survive and continue to fulfil the needs of members who wanted to remain loyal.

Last weekend I attended at the Adelaide sailing club to catch up with a few of the stalwarts who were sailing state heats. During one of my conversations I was told of another attempt to place a big rig on the mosquito. I have one thing to say to the promoters of this idea. Drop dead. If you don't like that suggestion then leave the class, join another class and see if you can destroy it through the same method of interference that you have employed in this class. You never know you may even become inventive and find new ways to speed up the process.

In all honesty, please allow the mossy to die an honourable death. I know that the death of the mossy, as a class is imminent, but please let the twilight years be ones of sliding into retirement rather than using euthanasia as the means to kill it off completely.

Alec Stevens
Life member
Mosquito Catamaran Association of SA