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ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INC.
253 THE ESPLANADE,
MIDDLE BRIGHTON, 3186,
VICTORIA.

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 74,
Middle Brighton, 3186.

24th. June 1998

Mr. Richard Hawkins
P.O. Box 160
MT. MARTHA VIC 3934

Dear Mr. Hawkins,

“STARS AND COMPASS” TROPHY

Appended hereto, please find a copy of the endorsed “Deed of Gift” for the “Stars and Compass” trophy now at Royal Brighton Yacht Club for your records.

We will house the trophy in the Club.

A copy of the ‘Deed of Gift’ has been placed in the plastic envelope, with the photograph and to be stored with the trophy in its’ wooden case.

As previously stated, this trophy will be used as one of the major trophies for the America’s Cup 2000 Cruise to New Zealand in January - February 2000.

Again, the Royal Brighton sincerely thanks you for this magnificent trophy to be retained at the Club among the other perpetual trophies.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Patton
Secretary Royal Brighton Yacht Club
Cruising Division.

cc: **General Manager**
Chairman Sailing
Commodore W. Luck

Background to
the "Stars and Compass" Trophy

The concept for this trophy began in 1988 when, after visiting the yacht "Steinlager" following her bicentennial circumnavigation of Australia, I realised that electronic navigational aids, such as computerised charts and satellite navigation, were taking over from the traditional skills of celestial navigation and position fixing by log, sextant and compass. It seemed likely that these skills might fall into disuse through lack of practice and would be forgotten when the electrics fail.

These views were expressed in a letter published by the *Australian Nautical News* in March 1989 under the heading "Racing Back to Basics". In this letter I advocated that a race or races should be organised in which the use of specified instruments would be disallowed in order to encourage the skills and seamanship employed by the navigators of former years.

Discussions with the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria during 1989 resulted in that Club organising an inshore race from Queenscliff to Western Port in April 1990 to further these aims. This was an encouraging development but, being an inshore course, it did not involve celestial navigation.

In February 1990, the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria accepted my offer of a perpetual trophy for an appropriate annual race which the Club would organise. However, after several years, as the ease and reliability of sophisticated electronic devices became established, its members all but lost enthusiasm for celestial navigation during races. The Club returned the trophy to me and it is now being donated to The Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc. who intend to foster the trophy's aims.

A "ready made" trophy did not reflect the philosophy of the "back to basics" proposal. In searching for an alternative, glass seemed to be a more preferable material than silver for several reasons, particularly since glass making is a very ancient craft. Also it doesn't tarnish and a glass trophy can be both decorative and useful.

This trophy was specially made and crafted by designer/glass maker Leisa Wharington, a member of a well known yachting family on the Mornington Peninsula, who have been friends of ours for many years.

The designs around the trophy include a compass rose, a yacht, the stars of the Southern Cross and a pair of dolphins. The latter, being frequent and much loved companions to yachtsmen and women as well as good navigators, were thought to be an appropriate way of completing the fourth sector.

The wooden base was made from celery top pine by my friend Stuart Calder of Mt. Martha, and the rope handle of the case has been made by another friend, Arthur Woodley of Crib Point, whose fine craftsmanship has assisted the restoration of the "Polly Woodside".

Mt. Martha, 20 June 1998

(Author of "Creeks and Harbours of Port Phillip", "Creeks and Harbours of Western Port" and "Creeks and Harbours of The Gippsland Lakes and Eastern Gippsland")

Richard Hawkins

Deed of Gift

of the "STARS AND COMPASS" Trophy

to encourage the use of traditional navigational skills by yachts at sea

donated in 1998 (the International Year of the Oceans)

by Richard Hawkins

This perpetual trophy is given by me to the Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc. for an occasional event, race or cruise designed to encourage the use of traditional navigational methods, such as by sextant, compass and seamanship, so that these arts are not forgotten and continue to be practised, despite the availability of modern electronic methods like computerised charts and satellite navigation.

The race, cruise or event should be so designed that it will test competitors with that degree of uncertainty as to their exact position during the course, the overcoming of which will bring them a measure of satisfaction and achievement.

The Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc. (and its successors) is empowered by this Deed to organise races, cruises, events and tests to achieve this objective, and may delegate the conduct of such races to another Club if it so desires. It is empowered to lay down the conditions by which the Trophy shall be awarded and to vary them from time to time if circumstances require.

The holder of the trophy is requested to display the trophy and to allow its maker, Leisa Wharington (or her successors) to exhibit it at exhibitions of her work if so desired.

The Trophy is to be returned to Richard Hawkins (or his estate) should the Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc. no longer require it.

Richard Hawkins

Richard Hawkins
Marlin Cottage
Wattle Avenue, Mt. Martha,
Victoria, 3934.

20 June 1998

Date

James Fitzpatrick

James Fitzpatrick
Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc.
P.O.Box 74, Middle Brighton,
Victoria, 3186.

20 June 1998

Date