

Place:

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Hobart

Missing Person Glyn Roderick CHARLES

Date : 3 January 1999

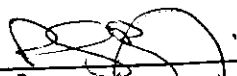
Name: Merrion Christina CHARLES
Address: 5 Bangalore St, London SW15
Occupation: Travel Consultant

Tel. No.: 0181 789 8952

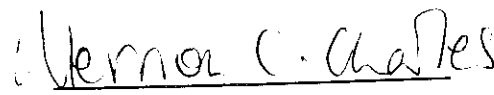
STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 34 years of age.
3. I have recently travelled to Hobart Tasmian in relation to the recent Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. My brother Glyn CHARLES was a crew member of the Sword of Orion.
4. I last saw Glyn on the 4th of December, 1998 at my flat warming party at the above address. He stayed the night at my flat.
5. Glyn represented England at the last Olympics in sailing, he was on the reserve list for the previous Olympics. He was in training for the Sydney Olympic in Sydney in the year 2000.
6. Glyn started sailing when he was 12 or 13 years of age. He was a self taught sailor. His first boat was a gul, he went on to sail Lasers, and he became the United Kingdom Champion.

Witness:


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Signature:



STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of:
Roderick CHARLES

Missing Person Glyn

Name: Merrion Christina CHARLES

7. He has sailed three Fastnet races. He sailed in the Admirals Cup three times. Glyn was a very keen sailor and I remember him laughing about the big boats. He enjoyed the little boats, I suppose the fit and tough side of sailing, hands on sailing. I was told Glyn was asked to sail on the Sword of Orion by Steve KULMAR. He was considered to be in the top ten as a sailing tactician.

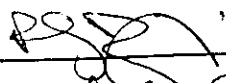
8. I think Glyn was due to go Victoria, Australia to commence coaching of the English sailing team.

9. I think it was the 18th of December, 1998 I recieved a call from my Mother. She told me that Glyn was going to do the Sydney to Hobart Race. I was upset that he wouldn't be back for Christmas. I knew Glyn was being paid money to crew on the Sword of Orion.

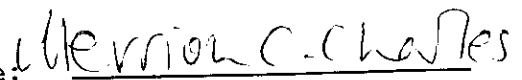
10. On the 25th of December, 1998 I was at mums house and Glyn rang home. I spoke to Glyn. He told me he had a very bad stomach bug. The race was due to start the next day. He was prone to stomach bugs. He said it was very hot. I enquired as to where he was staying. He was staying at Watson Bay. I asked him when he was getting back, He told me he wopuldn't very long. We had some general conversation and then he had a conversation with my mum.

11. On Sunday the 27th of December, 1998 I went with a freind to France. It was about 6.30pm French Time. Which was the 28th December, 1998 in Australia. I recieved a call from my boyfriend. He asked me if I was alright. I was sick at the time. He told me my mother had a phonecall from a Yorkshire Policeman. About 4 hours later we got to the Chalet. I spoke to my mother on the

Witness:


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Signature:



STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of:
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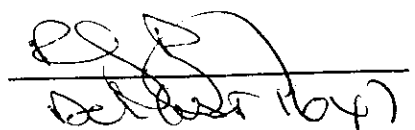
phone. She spoke to my friend first. My friend told me what Mum had said. I rang mum straight away. Mum told me Glyn was lost at sea due to the incredible weather, and that the rescue services were out looking for him. I immediately felt he was dead. But my mum reassured me. My mum was up all night talking to the race organisers. I received a call from my mother the next morning. She told me that they still hadn't found Glyn. I left the chalet and I travelled back to England.

12. My cousin, and I flew out from England on Wednesday the 30th of December, 1998. We arrived in Tasmania on the 1st of January, 1999.

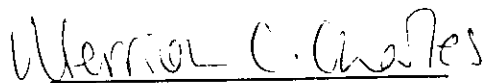
13. When we arrived in Hobart we were met by Carl WATSON and Rob KOTHE. We were taken to a Hotel and they both told us what had occurred. A service was held on Constitution dock.

14. I intend flying back to England on the 4th of January, 1999. Glyn was a very fit man, he loved sailing, he was good fun, unconventional. He was always described as being a good bloke. He was very modest. Glyn was 33 years of age. He was about 5 foot 11 inches. He was slim, but muscular. He was about 12 stone in weight. His hair was dark brown and curly. He had lovely green brown coloured eyes. He had a fair complexion but he tans very well. He had big ears, I mean they protruded from the side of his head. He was very good looking.

Witness:



Signature:



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15. I would like the Coroner of NSW to hold an inquest in relation to the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Glyn. I would hope that certain recommendations will be made in relation to the future of these types of races. It is important that these types of things don't happen again.

Witness:



Signature:

Merrion C. Charles