

*role of involvement 1/3/83 statement  
of Eigen brief paper*

Warren L. Jones,  
Americas Cup Challenge 1983 Ltd.,  
G>P>O> Box P1236,  
Perth, 6001,  
Australia

1983-02-28

Dear Warren,

Thank you for your letter dated 1983-02-10. I completely agree that only Ben Lexcen's name should be adopted on the patent application. As stated in my telex dated 1983-01-31, in no way should the Challenge be endangered - which would be the case if Ben Lexcen were to be challenged as the designer. I would have wished, however, that in discussions between you and I the truth relative to the design of the underwater configuration of Australia II were not camouflaged by discussions about inventors and designers, as in the first paragraph of your letter. The fact is that AII's keel, aft-body, bustle and rudder were conceived and originally drawn by myself. Joop Slooff gave valuable advice as to some angles and lengths of the keel-winglet configuration. Ben took care of the form of the above-water bow and stern, decided on the freeboard, and re-faired the final bustle. I carried out many calculations relative to the influence of displacement, waterline length, length of forward and aft overhang, position of the longitudinal centre of buoyancy, prismatic coefficient, wetted area, and gave Ben advice on the best value for each of these important parameters - advice which he adhered to in almost every respect. The roles that Joop Slooff and I played during the design stage were significant. AII's underwater configuration is mainly the result of the work that NLR and NSMB put into it.

In fact, I was involved in the actual design work at NSMB to such an extent that I was barely able to keep abreast of the other projects I was responsible for at the time. There was hardly an evening or weekend I wasn't doing some sort of calculation for AII. Because of my own enthusiasm I tried my hardest to keep the costs of tank testing down as much as possible, realizing that if I didn't I would have been forced to quote higher prices for the tests - tests which you then might not have wanted to carry out.

So you see Warren I find it hard to read in various magazine articles how Ben is quoted describing how successful he designed a break-through Twelve, etc. I know that my involvement can never be revealed because of the possible conflict with the Deed of Gift. It shouldn't be necessary however to conceal the facts between ourselves.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Peter van Oossanen', written in a cursive style.

Peter van Oossanen