



Pittwater Sailors

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone,

On Sunday the forecast was for around 6 knots from the S/SW. As it turned out we had little to no breeze at 11.45am when we needed a decision on the course, so I opted for course 8 (Short Course). I didn't think to delay the start in the hope that we would get more breeze which did in fact eventuate! The fortunes at starting were interesting, 6 started within 1 minute late, 4 started between 1.5min and 10 minutes late and one brave soul started 4 seconds early! Oh, for some breeze!

Myra made a good start in a little breeze which carried her well to the first buoy for Blue Fleet and she thoughtfully left a hole for us lighter boats to struggle in when rounding the buoy! The rest of the fleet staggered across the start line and had mixed fortunes to the first mark. Drama ensued over the VHF soon after when some sailing in the Yellow Division debated what was the first mark. Please print out the 2023 Course sheets from the PAC Sailors website and have them on board for the next race. Please don't assume the courses will not change from season to season.

The race settled down in what was then a 6 to at one time 10 knot breeze. It was great to sail some of the legs with the Yellow Fleet boats. The last leg from LN to the Finish for the leading boats in Blue Fleet was exciting. Myra had a handy lead followed by Life of Riley which rounded the mark and settled down to chase Myra. Nickerlyn was next to round with Jacana just behind with the breeze freshening. Mira helming Nickerlyn had to use every trick in the book from racing dinghies in Hong Kong to keep Jacana at bay.

The last boat finished by 2.00pm which made the race rather a short affair. We were however lucky in having sunny weather for taking the photos.

The photo chase boat did an excellent job in not interfering with the racing yachts. Thanks to Lena and Pavel (Paul) for providing their power boat Rusty Nails with Kim Russell on board and Paul Toomey taking the photos. We look forward to seeing the photos, Paul tells me he took many photos so there should

be some good ones there. Andrew Latimer kindly took a number of shots of people enjoying our dinner for inclusion in our website under the Dinner tab.

Thanks to Phil O'Leary on CE VU, along with Andrew Latimer and John Cassidy for volunteering to be the 3rd person on the start boat in response to the limited PAC email mailout.

The place getters for Yellow Division were: first Fleetwood, second Ricochet and third was Just Magic. For Blue Division: first was Myra, second was Life of Riley and third was Nickerlyn. Well done to all the place getters.

Prior to the start of our dinner, there was a presentation of the Pittwater Sailors new website which is intended to attract non-PAC yacht owners and members of the public interested in crewing to make contact via the website. The existing Sailors tabs will remain on the PAC website with no change.

The structure of the website was shown to members. The Home Page contains our key messages, then a further 6 pages, the last of which invites the reader to make contact via a blind email link. The website is up and running. Can you encourage as many people as possible to access the site on the web address pittwatersailors.au as this should help increase the rank of our site in search engines and hence raise us in the order of sites.

There was support for increasing the size of the fleet and various suggestions were made which will be followed up. In response to a question, we would like to at least double the size of our fleet. There was support for the direction the committee was heading in particular:

1. Support to advertise our activities and website in the Afloat and Pittwater Life.
2. Support for using social media. We need a member to act as a social media moderator so please let me know if able to help in this regard.
3. Support to activate the Google Pittwater Sailors Pin to link to our website.

Members are encouraged to check out Wollongong Sailing Club website at <https://www.wyc.org.au/home/>, that along with their social media activities, has been successful in increasing their membership and participation. They are a good model we can learn much from.

A special thanks to Andrew and Vicky Bray who had to cope with the PAC fridge that had failed on Saturday and left them ferrying food home to keep fresh. Despite this we had another excellent dinner. Alan Barnes came to the rescue by arranging for the fridge to be fixed on Sunday morning in time for the

evening dinner. Thanks Alan. Thanks also to Sheree for doing the chicken run in Rick's absence.

Sheree did another excellent job with the raffle ticket sales and preparation. The raffle draw had its usual amusements.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the many tasks not mentioned above and importantly with the clean-up and putting the folding tables away after the dinner which was particularly appreciated this time.

Please let Andrew Bray know if you have a permanent or casual booking and are unable to attend.

Or if you are casual and wish to attend the BBQ, contact Andrew by the Wednesday before the race. The food is ordered on Thursday morning.

Andrew can be contacted on 0423 551 948 or aussiestarship44@gmail.com. We need accurate numbers to ensure we have enough food for all and to avoid unnecessary wastage as much as possible.

Note: With the start of daylight-saving the next race starts at 12.30PM and is on the 8th of October, the 2nd Sunday in October. The evening dinner will be at 6.00 for 6.30PM

Regards,

John Marshall
Sailing Captain.

Current committee activities:

1. The handover of the Handicapping role to Len Baillie will be completed this month with ongoing support by Ken Plumb.
2. Progress the many tasks associated with the new website and use of social media.