



Pittwater Sailors

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone,

The forecast for Sunday as everyone knows, was for relentless heavy showers and rain all day but the wind forecast had moderated. After some consultation with a handful of skippers there was not a lot of enthusiasm on Saturday to race Sunday. However, we decided to make the final call at 10.00AM and lo and behold it had not rained since dawn, the sky was light but there was no breeze. The day looked good so off we went.

Paul and Lena Aizana with their lovely boat “Rusty Nails” filled in as our start boat for the day, Sheree Nathan filled in as race officer bringing her experience in the requirements for the day and was joined by Bernard Kennelly who has volunteered to be part of our start boat crew. Welcome Bernard and thank you all.

It was with some relief that I saw from Nickerlyn at 11.30am that there were some other boats out there getting ready to race. The breeze was very light, less than 5knots at 11.45am when we must decide on the course, I selected the short course 8 thinking that we will at least get everyone finished before the forecast rain would surely arrive. When it came for us to start at 12.26pm there was a nice 8 to 10 knot southerly as forecast! Unfortunately, we had only one boat sail in Yellow Division, but we had 5 boats in Blue Division including David Cunningham in Karma 3 who is sailing the first 3 races in the winter series. Welcome David. Course 8 is laid out in such a manner to enable boats to finish the race. The works only had a tack or two and so the race became a bit of a procession except for the robust efforts Karma 3 made to block Nickerlyn passing. (we go back a long way). The overall effect of all this was that we all finished before 2.00pm. The race was too short as it turned out, but we all got home and packed up nice and dry before the rain would surely arrive.

The place getters were Yellow Division, Fleetwood, Blue Division, first Unlimited, second Soiree and third Nickerlyn.

The evening meal was up to its excellent standard thanks in no small part to Andrew and Vicky Bray. Unfortunately, Rick and Sue Murry were on the sick list and Andrew was able to step in to get the chicken.

Frans and Jenny de Wilds sold the raffle tickets giving Sheree time off after the rigors of manning the start boat.

The place getters presentation had its light moments especially with Gerald being the only boat in Yellow Division. This was followed by the raffle draw which led to the usual exclamations with more than one winner from the same party. It all is meant to be random!

Volunteer Rollcall, for Race and Dinner for Sunday 6/5/2024.

<u>TASK</u>	<u>Volunteer 1</u>	<u>Volunteer 2</u>	<u>Volunteer 3</u>
<u>Sailing Captain</u>	<u>John Marshall</u>		
<u>Handicapping</u>	<u>Len Ballie</u>		
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Kim Russell</u>		
<u>Start Boat</u>	<u>Lena and Paul Aizina</u>	<u>Sheree Nathan</u>	<u>Bernard Kennelly</u>
<u>Catering etc</u>	<u>Andrew Bray</u>	<u>Vicky Bray</u>	
<u>Club-room table setup</u>	<u>Paul Toomey</u>	<u>Roger Mail</u>	
<u>Barbecue</u>			
<u>Supermarket</u>	<u>Vicky Bray</u>		
<u>Meat/Chicken pickup</u>	<u>Andrew Bray</u>		
<u>Raffle Ticket Vendor</u>	<u>Frans de Wilde</u>	<u>Jenny de Wilde</u>	
<u>Help with cleanup is greatly appreciated</u>			

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped with the many tasks not mentioned above and importantly with the clean-up.

Ron Baxter

Unfortunately, Ron Baxter is in hospital and I'm sure you all join with me in wishing him a full recovery. In the meantime, we are unable to have our race results and handicaps for the June race uploaded on the PAC Website under the Sailors tabs. I will email the Skippers both the results and the handicap sheet when available as I did for the May race. Please look out for it. I was alarmed to learn that at least one recipient didn't receive their copy. Please would you check your spam folders. Please contact me if you are missing the sheets and I will resend them.

Race Courses Design and Lengths

Course 1 for both Blue and Yellow Divisions have been modified to force some tacking should the breeze swing from North towards the NE which happened during the April race. I have emailed you all the revised courses.

Regarding concerns that Yellow Division Course 5 is too long I have undertaken a detailed review of the course lengths using digital tracking of several races we have sailed Nickerlyn in RMYC and the PAC races. Paul Toomey initially used Strava, a running and cycling app that has a tracking feature and is currently evaluating Water Sports Tracker, which gives excellent data. The apps track of our races is a great help in fixing the position of all the buoys that we use in Pittwater on my nautical map.

I hope to get some input from Ken Plumb regarding the changes this data makes to most of the course distances. More to follow next month.

Special Request.

Whilst we are fortunate to have Bernard Kennelly joining the Start Boat Crew, we are still seeking another volunteer on a casual and a more regular basis. The Start Boat experience is a pleasant way to spend a Sunday on Pittwater. We are looking for either a man or a woman and you don't need any prior sailing or racing experience to be an invaluable help.

Could I press all sailors to ask your family members and friends for anyone who could be interested in coming out on the Start Boat please. If interested, please ask them to call me on 0419 764 952 to find out more and I can answer any questions they may have.

Post Race Dinners:

The food for the dinners is purchased/ordered on the Thursday morning. If you have a permanent booking but you (or your permanently booked partner) won't be attending the Sunday evening post-race dinner, please advise Andrew Bray (0423 551 948 or aussiestarship44@gmail.com) by Wednesday evening. Similarly, if you (or a partner or friend) don't have a permanent booking but would like to attend, let Andrew know by Wednesday evening, and indicate how many people will be in your party. This ensures there is enough to go around, but also helps minimise waste.

Regards,
John Marshall, Sailing Captain.