



Pittwater Sailors

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone,

What is it about our race days with an awful forecast again for race day on Sunday preceded by a drowned-out Saturday! Again, as it turned out we woke on Sunday to sunshine with a cold breeze from the south.

It was good to have our regular start boat CE VU back on station with Phil O'Leary, Kim Russell and Ron Seldon being part of the start crew. Ron tells me he is looking forward to being on the start boat again next month which is much appreciated.

Again at 11.45am we had a fresh gusty S to SW breeze and following some debate, I selected Course 5 which promised a good day's racing. The numbers were down as we circled in the brown Pittwater water prior to the start. Tardis was off and away not long after the gun as we loitered waiting for our start times. It was good to see Kama 3 sailing again with us.

Unfortunately, during the race, the breeze swung SW-W and made the race a soldier's course again. There was no tacking to windward and so we again made good time to all be finished by 2.30PM! However, everyone enjoyed themselves as all the boats were sailing at near hull speeds for most of the race in the fresh conditions in the sunshine.

We have had 3 races this season, 2 where the breeze swung and made the races into soldier's courses and last month the breeze finally came in and we needn't have sailed the short course. If anyone has any ideas regarding the dark art of course selection let me know please.

The place getters were Yellow Division, first Tardis, second Fleetwood. Blue Division, first Spirito, second Soiree and third Nickerlyn, Kama 3 unfortunately did not finish.

With the recent passing of Ron Baxter, we remembered Ron's involvement with the PAC Sailors over probably 25 years particularly his past tireless work as Treasurer and administrator and all other Sailors' matters. We followed this with the PAC tradition of the standing for a minute of reflection.

Our evening then proceeded as normal.

Our dinner was up to its excellent standard thanks to Andrew and Vicky Bray. Col Dickins and crew again did a splendid job on the BBQ as did Rick collecting the steaks and Vicky doing the supermarket run. Katie and Stu Pollard sold the raffle tickets with alacrity. Thanks guys.

The place getters presentation again had its light moments as every skipper who sailed and was present got a bottle of wine! It's probably the only time a DNF skipper got a bottle, but it didn't seem fair that they missed out. This was followed by the raffle draw which led to the usual amusing moments.

Volunteer Rollcall, for Race and Dinner for Sunday 2/6/2024.

<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>Phil O'Leary</u>	<u>Kim Russell</u>	<u>Ron Seldon</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>Col Dickings</u>	<u>Bob Cooper</u>	<u>Roger Mail</u> <u>Paul Toomey</u>
<u>Supermarket</u>	<u>Vicky Bray</u>		
<u>Meat/Chicken pickup</u>	<u>Rick Murray</u>		
<u>Raffle Ticket Vendor</u>	<u>Katie Pollard</u>	<u>Stu Pollard</u>	
<u>Help with cleanup is greatly appreciated</u>	<u>Jenny de Wilde</u>	<u>Frans de Wilde</u>	

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

PAC Website

It will be some time before we will be able to post our race results, handicaps etc. on the PAC website. In the meantime, I will email the skippers the race and series results so far and of course the next race handicaps. I will keep you advised of any changes when they occur.

Special Request.

Bernard Kennelly will return to be part of the Start Boat Crew next race and for the rest of the season which is great.

I am hoping over time that we can move to formalize the role of Race Officer on the start boat and with Bernard Kennelly, Ron Seldon and with the return of Andrew Latimer in 2025 this might be possible.

We are still seeking another volunteer on a casual and a more regular basis so as to free up Kim Russell to sail. 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.

Noel Phelan wrote the following note of recognition for the contribution Ron Baxter made to PAC and particularly the PAC Sailors in the past.

RON BAXTER – AN OUTSTANDING QUIET ACHIEVER

Ron and Marilyn have six children. He was a very proud father and a great family man. Ron worked in the electrical maintenance of large building projects. He put these skills to good use at PAC by designing the electrical and mechanical services required by the new clubhouse.

Ron is the holder of an AYF Sailing Masters Certificate and AYF Class Coach Certificate.

In retirement Ron gave a lot back to the community, 13 years as Scout leader in the 1st Avalon Scouts, bush regeneration for several years and over 20 years teaching people at the Avalon Computer Pals.

Ron has been a PAC member for 30 years and has served on the board for 11 years.

His recent extensive portfolio of responsibilities was member information management, access control and journal. He discharged these responsibilities in a very professional manner. He had extraordinary loyalty to PAC and commitment to his job as a director. Most days you could find him at the clubhouse.

In addition to being a board member Ron was the treasurer for the Pittwater Sailors for over 25 years. The title treasurer title gives little indication of his outstanding contribution to the success of the Sailors.

I was very fortunate as sailing captain to have Ron on the committee.

Ron's contributions and achievements are outlined below to give you some idea of the workload Ron could carry. Being a true volunteer, Ron did all of this for personal satisfaction – not for any recognition. He was a very private person and refused recognition when offered. His funeral will be a private family affair.

- Fees for the racing (\$5 per race) and the BBQ fee of \$10 were the same for the many many years through very careful management of expenses. No inflation here.
- All the documents ready to go at the start of every year.

- BBQ organised - number attending and food quantities managed
- Raffle ready to go at every BBQ - wine prizes and tickets
- Financials up to date - expenses carefully managed
- Great wine selection for the raffle prizes and Christmas Party
- Data base of sailors and boats up to date -- changes always done quickly
- Website up to date
- Christmas party organised with the catering team. Some of the food cooked and prepared at his own home.
- Trophies and nameplates delivered on time
- Always available to hear the next idea from all on the committee
- His comments and advice were always based on sound judgement and common sense
- Excellent computer skills - maintained his knowledge of technology

Behind every good man of course is a very good woman - Marilyn. Both tireless workers, a wonderful team to see in action.

Ron was committed to a quality result in everything he did and had a very good understanding of ethics – doing the right thing in difficult situations.

I think they broke the mould after Ron was born.