



Pittwater Sailors

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone,

It was a relief that we had a breeze for December's race and that it was not necessary to sail the short course.

The start boat CE VU crewed by Phil O'Leary, Bernard Kennelly and Ron Seldon selected NE (Course 2) which was an excellent selection given the strength of the breeze for most of the race. They explained to me they were prepared to shorten the course should the breeze fail us.

It was pleasing to see the early starters sail nicely on their way to Stokes Point so there was enough breeze for hopefully a good race. As it turned out the breeze built, and we all experienced squalls and a shower or two. All boats were making good speed until the last turn around Stokes when the breeze suddenly died. It was no problem for the fleet to make it back to the finish line given all the experience we have had with races having little to no breeze in 2024!

It was good to see we had about 50 people for the final post-race dinner for the 2024 season. The start of the dinner was unfortunately delayed because we could not load the last race results into TopYacht for the Spring Series. In the end we judged what the Spring Series results would be and went with that. Fortunately, we were able to load the results into the 2024 Postscore Series and get the correct final Series Results which was just as well. If you check on the Sailors tabs on the PAC website, you will see the results calculated by TopYacht were in fact correct as announced and presented.

Andrew was able to finally ring the bell at about 7.00pm, and our dinner started. It was very pleasing indeed to see how everyone was enjoying themselves. Following the rather excellent Christmas Pudding the formalities of the evening commenced.

It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to thank on behalf of everyone Andrew and Vicky Bray, Shree Nathan and Sue Beavis for preparing such an excellent end-of-season dinner. Unfortunately, Vicky was not able to be with us as she had a cold. Get well soon Vicky. Everyone clapped heartily in

appreciation not for just this dinner but also for the dinners we have all enjoyed in 2024.

We were able to also express our appreciation for Phil O'Leary for providing CE VU as our start boat throughout 2024. Ron Seldon as Officer of the Day and Bernard Kennelly. Again, the applause showed the sailors appreciation not just for the days race but also for their presence throughout the 2024 season. Having a start boat for the conduct of our races makes all the difference.

Well done to the placegetters in the last race of the 2024 season. In Yellow Division, First was Cruzen, second was Nauti Girl and Third was Fleetwood. In Blue Division, First was Soiree, second was Spirito and third was Alfresco.

By way of preamble, I explained that the Trophy winners are dominated by boats that were sailed in all or nearly all races. So, regular participation is rewarded. The 2024 season had a mixed bag of races, we had 5 good races, 2 races where the breeze swung making them soldiers' courses (no works to windward), 3 short course races and one abandoned race. Let's hope we have better breezes for racing in 2025.

We then proceeded with the 2024 Season Trophies presentation for which I apologise for the confusion and lack of preparedness. It was not helped by the drama we had with TopYacht in getting the results.

The Results for the Winter Series were Yellow Division, First Fleetwood, Second Just Magic and Tardis third. For Blue Division First was Soiree, second was Nickerlyn and Third was Spirito.

Thanks to Kim Russell for joining me before I gave out the wrong trophies, all a bit shambolic. Gerald and Tim eventually received the right trophies!

The Results for the Spring Series were Yellow Division, First Fleetwood, Second Tardis and third Just Magic. For Blue Division First was Spirito, second was Soiree and Third was Nickerlyn. These results have been confirmed by TopYacht the results of which can be seen on the PAC Sailors tabs.

The results for the 2024 Season Point score for Yellow Division was First Tardis, second Fleetwood and third Just Magic. For Blue Division First (on countback) was Spirito, second was Nickerlyn and Third was Soiree.

As the TopYacht Trophy inevitably goes to one of the Season Pointscore series winners in the past we decided to award the trophy to the participant that sailed

the most races in the absence of the top two placegetters in both Yellow and Blue Divisions. On this basis Soiree was the winner.

The raffle for the 5 bottles of wine went quite smoothly. Thanks to Katie Pollard for selling the raffle tickets and working with Kim Russell to sort out the stubs.

In reviewing 2024 season the sailing expenditure has not been covered by the \$55 application fee. It is not known when this fee was set, but it's probably at least 15 years ago. The committee is reviewing the fee for the 2025 season. I was pleased to add that the \$20 dinner charge has covered costs with a bit of a margin remaining to cover increased costs due to inflation in 2025. A higher attendance at our dinners is a help.

I took the opportunity to mention the work that is at hand.

Kim Russell, in addition to his treasurer duties has been busy arranging the return of the trophies from 2024 season, the purchase of the individual trophies and finally the engraving of the trophy plaques and their distribution.

Ron Seldon has been of great help to me in updating our racing documentation for 2025 and the duties for the Start Boat and the Officer of the Day. We also have decided that we need to include improved documentation covering requirements should an accident occur. Further to this the PAC Emergency Guide has an incorrect telephone number that we hope to correct. These documents need to be finalised before I apply for an Aquatic License for the 2025 season.

I want to mention Len Ballie for his efforts in running TopYacht to get our race results each month throughout 2024. Len has had some trials with the program but always got the job done. Thanks Len.

Finally, Gerald Nathan has made many contributions throughout the year but taking over the support of the start boat activities has been a great help indeed. However, his best contribution has been a wonderful backstop for me throughout the season. Thanks Gerald.

Volunteer Rollcall, for Race and Dinner for Sunday 1/12/2024.

| <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 & many other things</u> | <u>Kim Russell</u> | | |
| <u>Start Boat</u> | <u>Phil O’Leary</u> | <u>Ron Seldon</u> | <u>Bernard Kennelly.</u> |
| <u>Catering etc</u> | <u>Andrew Bray</u> | <u>Vicky Bray</u> | <u>Shree Nathan Sue Beavis</u> |
| <u>Club-room table setup</u> | <u>Roger Mail</u> | <u>Kim Russell</u> | <u>John Marshall</u> |
| <u>Supermarket</u> | <u>Vicky Bray</u> | <u>Andrew Bray</u> | |
| <u>Meat/Chicken pickup</u> | | | |
| <u>Raffle Ticket Vendor</u> | <u>Katie Pollard</u> | | |
| <u>Help with cleanup is greatly appreciated</u> | <u>Astrid and Mathew King</u> | <u>Sue Murry, Frans and Jenny de Wilde</u> | <u>Sheree, Sue Beavis, Salina Mak</u> |

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

Feedback Requested to me at jem780@bigpond.com

It was explained to me that several people on the night asked if the race could be started an hour earlier to allow extra time for people to make it to the dinner. By way of explanation, we start at 1.00pm in summer to allow sufficient time for the breeze to become established. Should we start at 12.00noon the Officer of the day must decide by 11.45 which course to set and there is often little to no breeze. However, by 12.45 there is a better chance for the breeze to have started to come in.

So, for 2025 season could you let me know ASAP which of the options you would prefer.

1. No change. Ring the bell for dinner at 6.30pm
2. Ring the bell for dinner at 7.00pm

2025 Season Application.

When you make your application please pay attention to the matter of attendance to the dinners. It is a great help for Andrew to know the numbers of permanent booking which serves as the basis for ordering each week.

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.