



Our Starters

As we draw to the end of yet another very enjoyable and competitive season, we must acknowledge the great contribution of our Starters and their assistants to our sailing. As you are all aware, last Saturday was the last of our Sprint Series, held in intermittent rain and with a very variable Southerly blowing. One general recall and four races in two hours took a lot of organising and precision. Well done all of you.

Bryan Shaw has suggested that we hold a sweep for our social members and other onlookers at these events. The Board are looking into it, as it is a great spectacle, and we do attract quite a crowd. We might even run a Calcutta and auction off boats! Just like the Melbourne Cup! Might bring a new dimension to sailing in Port Stephens!

Sail Port Stephens.

This is rapidly becoming quite an event. Pat Hurley is our representative for most of the week, sailing in the Commodore's Cup series of three races concluding tomorrow (Wednesday) 24 yachts are contesting this event. Pat has had a 12th and a 6th so far showing a steady improvement! Here is hoping for tomorrow. There is a lay day on Thursday. Friday through Sunday, yachts of all sizes will race on a range of courses and areas around the Bay and offshore, with great spectator spots to watch the starts off the break wall at d'Albora Marina. "She's the one", "Rumbo", "Nervous" and "Knot Working", all members of PSYC, will be sailing on the weekend.

There are a number of vantage points – including Peppers Anchorage at Corlette Point and from the jetty in front of All Seasons Salamander Shores at Soldiers Point, where locals and visitors can take in the spectacle of a fleet of over 60 boats, ranging in size from 65 to 24 foot.

I attended the briefing on Monday morning which was addressed by Paul O'Rourke. The very pleasant social atmosphere was very appealing and I hope that we can become more involved next year both individually and as a Club.

The Winter Series.

Vice Commodore Jim Quinn has done a marvellous job in organising a very interesting Winter Programme with events to suit all of us.

Jim has produced an excellent Winter Handbook which is on the website. **MAKE SURE THAT YOU READ IT ALL!** There are several important changes to the Notice of Race and it is essential that we all are aware of them. Check the courses too!!!

One of the changes that will take place this winter is that if for ANY reason the Sprint Races scheduled for a particular day are not conducted, we will have an inshore race instead. Provided of course that there is not a gale warning current at 11am.

You may remember that we had to cancel sailing on one day during the summer as a strong easterly combined with a very strong outgoing tide made conducting three starts on our line too dangerous in the circumstances and we had to cancel racing.

One of the most important requirements for this Winter is the lodgement of the entry form for the series together with an accompanying indemnity form. Without these being filled in and signed and your safety audit being current, you will not be entered into the result sheet for any of the series and you will not receive a current handicap. These forms are available on the website and will be available in the clubhouse for those who do not have internet facilities. PLEASE complete them as soon as possible so that we can be fully prepared for the start of the winter series on Wednesday the 6th of May. (ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY!) Alan Atkins is the man to hand them to.

Safety Audits

This year we are going to conduct safety audits on three consecutive Saturdays just prior to the commencement of the summer series. Dates to be advised. In the meantime there will be a refresher course for current auditors and an instructional course for new auditors held at the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. Any members who wish to assist our committee and members by becoming an auditor is welcome to attend. Please let Alan Atkins, Peter Collins or myself know if you are interested and we will make sure that you know when these courses are to be held. I understand that they are only one day events and quite interesting. All yachts competing in the Summer Series will have to have their audits completed and Summer series entry and indemnity forms lodged prior to the commencement of the Season to be included in the starting sheets.

Presentation Night

This will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday May 16th, the tables are filling up fast so make sure that you book with Pauline as soon as possible. \$20 per head for a seafood meal and wine on the table is pretty good value.

Security

If for some reason (not related to alcohol of course!) you are last to leave the Clubhouse, please have a look at the checklist adjacent to the burglar alarm keypad near the front door and make sure that the doors and windows are locked, fans turned off, lights out etc.

Been a great season, looking forward to the next one!

See you at the Bar! John Way 0412493586