



Newsletter One 2016-17

From the Commodore

Welcome to our first newsletter of the PRSC 2016-17 season which has got off to a blistering start with the just completed Spring Series, and Long Harbour, Special Trophies and Twilight events. The Wednesday night twilight racing is a highlight not to be missed, with boats across the fleet competing in typical twilight (read laid back) fashion.

The committee has configured a strategic plan for 2017-2021 focusing on club growth. This is available in hardcopy at the club for any interested member. Declan Brennan, Regional Manager Australian Sailing is assisting, and met with us prior to the November meeting with numerous insights and suggestions – thanks Declan for your time and efforts.



Spring Series Results

Parramatta River Sailing Club's 2016-17 season six race spring series started with two boisterous westerlies gusting to 30+ knots and ended with another, which both divisions handled with aplomb. In between we had a bit of a breather with three races out of the east half of the compass in the 10-20 knot range, which included some superb masthead kite downwind duels and many very close crosses coming back upwind.

In Division 1 the Etchells22 Axis of Evil (Geoff Dempsey) with three wins won by three points from the Adams10.6 Still Festering (Pat O'Brien) on two wins, with another three points to the Ross930 Resurgent (Rob and Phil Widders) also rounding out the heat winners.



In Division 3 the Crossfire20 Xena Warrior Princess (Carolyn Howe) with superb consistency carding two wins and four seconds, held out by just one point the fast finishing Compass750 A Fine Balance (Noel Wallis) with three wins. The Farr727 Farrago (Barry Heaton) came in third also rounding out the heat victors.



Both divisions have expanded yacht numbers this season, and members have totally enjoyed the three club dinners to date, not to mention the regular post-race wash-ups on the veranda and over the bar. The winners also get to write the race report for posting on the club website each week – they are normally a very entertaining read.

The club's Summer Series has now commenced, with race 1 held in the most bizarre conditions experienced in many a moon. Wind speeds ranged from 0 to 32 knots, and all directions occurred, sometimes seemingly three at once. The Long Course deep down harbour, Special

Trophies mid harbour and Twilight series continue.



Balmain Regatta

The Balmain regatta is a prestigious one with old and new coming together for the day. Classic yachts, historical skiffs, 12 meters, harbour racers and the newer sports boats all divided up in their respective divisions. The day consists of a lot of comradery with the emphasis on the celebration of sailing over many years. Over 60 yachts competing in different divisions were greeted with a beautiful sunny day with an 8 to 10 kts easterly. PRSC was represented by Still Festering in Open Class C. The crack crew (Pat, Mitch, Nuts, Speed, Barry) was made up from various PRSC boats. The day carried on well into the afternoon with refreshments back at the Balmain Sailing Club and some live music out on the marina. Still Festering were fortunate enough to come away from the event winning their division. They also were presented with the Pymont Cup, a trophy awarded to the boat that has the biggest winning margin from all divisions. Below shows our twilight starter Nuts with the Balmain regatta "girls", aka the course "buoys" for the day.



Upcoming Events

We will be having a sausage sizzle to mark the end of Twilight Series A on Wednesday 14th December after the race.

The next club dinner will be Saturday 17th December after summer series race four, and is being hosted by Div 3.

The festive season break is then upon us, with a return to sailing on Saturday 14th January for the final long harbour race.

The club will be open on New Year's Eve – stay tuned for further details.

Scuttlebutt

Even this soon into the season we have a very strong entry for the presentation night Oar Trophy – Axis of Evil's effort at the last spring race start. Top marks for participating in such a wind but unfortunately it all went to fertilizer with the handicap start completely ignored, and the wrong first mark navigated. At least Speed was exonerated, having the day off, which presumably was the problem.

Be aware that autonomous ships are coming....see here:

<http://www.rolls-royce.com/products-and-services/marine/services/ship-intelligence.aspx>



Will this prevent the below as per above image

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmDybTlXrJc>

PRSC welcomes new skippers and crew - see www.prsc.org.au for details - or attend the club at the end of Wharf Road Gladesville any Saturday afternoon scheduled races are on.

15 Nov 2016