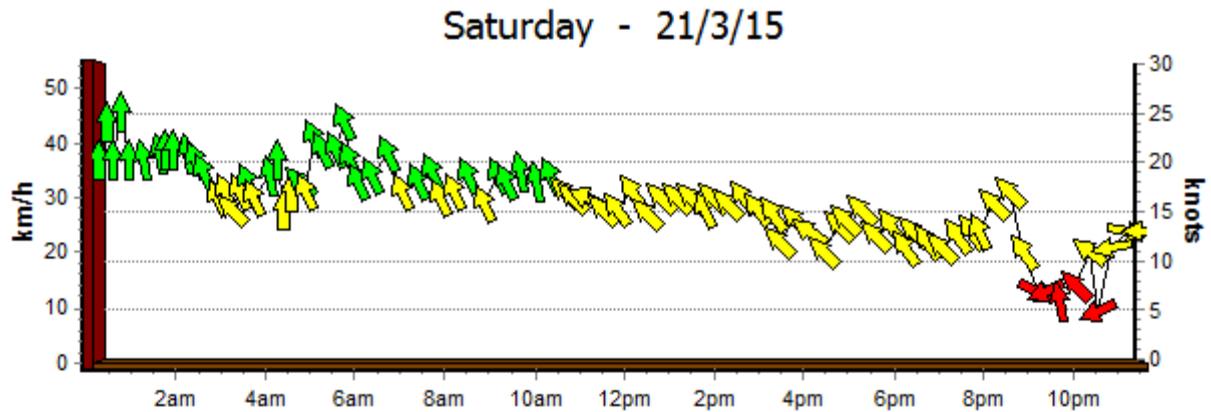


Autumn Race 4



The wind failed to reach the 20kt prediction and the grey skies held off to make for a pleasant day out on the water.

The choice of Course 27 ensured that the race was exciting from the start, even for the starters who hit the water to add the Compass mark after starting the race.

Division 1 hit the start line with Eggshells and Speedwell heading for the Woolwich shore and most of the rest staying out in the middle. However, the net result was that the fleet met at Onions Point to demonstrate their ability to tack in the disturbed air they had created. No reports from the residents along the Humbug shore were received by the club, so the calls for water and starboard must have been very well mannered.

After some time the fleet sorted itself out and set off for Cockatoo. As the fleet stretched it became a bit of a procession around the course. Wind shadows played their part.

At the end Blue Chip had managed to establish a good lead over the fleet with Speedwell, GWhizz and Young Obsession close in the spinnaker tussle through Humbug. Starelan was not too far back after making up considerable ground on the second leg. Eggshells and Velocity were unusually at the back of the fleet. Fantasy Island (oops Speedwell) won from the Chippies and Wizzies on Handicap Wheel of Fortune.

In Division 2 the fleet sailed the White course and after the start managed to avoid the disturbed air at Onions Point and managed a clean exit of Humbug. Flair and Paca acted as though they were a catamaran down the Birchgrove, Drummoyne and Hunters Hill shores and only after Compass, Flair managed to make a small break as the Paca crew went in search of the mythical Whitehorse of Troy mark.

Flair held on to the finish with Zig Zag and Paca contesting a last ditched battle to the line in the fickle wind past Onions Point. Zig Zag squeaked in after an excellent sail to take the handicap result. Highland Ghost also sailed well and was not too far away at the end.

Please note no calves, hares, vealers or quail were harmed in this report.