

West Harbour Winter Series Wrap Up

Exciting finish to West Harbour Winter Series

Sunday 9th August was Race 7 and the last for the Combined 2014-15 Series with Balmain Sailing Club and Greenwich Flying Squadron along with Drummoyne Sailing Club.

At 12:55 there was no wind so the Committee reluctantly raised the AP flag. Why couldn't we have a few of the knots that we had in the last race, when it was blowing 25Kts plus?

With an incoming tide of around 2 Kts to take off the eventual easterly 2 Kt wind, we decided to keep the Westerly No. 2 course we had originally set. If the wind did not strengthen, we were afraid that sending the boats off toward Goat Island might mean they didn't get there!

Eventually at 13:30, we were getting 5 Kts fairly regularly, so down came the AP and we sent the boats off on a Sydney Hobart style spinnaker start. What a great sight! The wind continued to build up to about 8 Kts and we watched on the Committee Boat as the leaders, from the Yellow division, Balmain Tiger (FT10), Matagi (MD35) and Ophir (FT10) swept past us down the Balmain shore, leaving the rest of the fleet well behind.

The Committee then had to decide where to shorten the Course and choose a finish point - we had to consider how long it would take the smaller boats to complete their course as well. We finally decided to finish them off the Drummoyne Sailing Club. So as we upped anchor from the start position east of Cockatoo Island, the great red spinnakers of the two Flying Tigers running neck and neck were upon us, starting their second lap. Matagi was taking a more northerly track and was ahead when the two Flying Tigers tacked to clear Cockatoo Island. As we motored off to set the finish line, it was Matagi in the lead followed by Balmain Tiger followed by Ophir.

When we had set the finish line and raised the S flag for the shortened course, we looked up to Spectacle Island to see that it was Ophir first, then Matagi, then Balmain Tiger. So it was a fight all the way to the finish and they crossed the line in that order. It was another 8 minutes before Magic, the first of the Adams 10s, finished.

However, when the handicaps kicked in, the line-finishing order was reversed: Balmain Tiger 1, Matagi 2, and Ophir 3.

In the Blue Division 2, first across the line was Pistol Dawn (Young 88), followed by Naughty Call (Robertson 950) and then Between Partners (Swarbrick 950). The Handicap winners were Naughty Call 1, Between Partners 2 and Ten Speed (Farr 1020) 3.

In the Black Division 3, first across the line was Silhouette (Peterson 30) 5 minutes ahead of Les Girls II (Hanse 350), followed by Bull Bull (J24). Handicap honours went to Second Wind 1, Silhouette 2, and Bull Bull 3.

In the Green Division 4, line honours went to Umzimkulu II (Holland 30), 5 minutes ahead of Witchways II (Endeavour 26) who were 4 minutes ahead of Evo (Endeavour 26).

Handicap honours went to Umzimkulu II 1, Mistress (Adams 31) 2 and Loose Change (Crossfire 20) 3.

The Series Winners were:

Yellow Division 1: MATAGI

Blue Division 2: BETWEEN PARTNERS

Black Division 3: SILHOUETTE

Green Division 4: Equal Points: LOOSE CHANGE and UMZIMKULU II

Full results are on the Balmain Sailing Club website:

<http://www.topyacht.net.au/results/clubs/balmainsc/2014/2015whws/series.htm>

Congratulations to all the winners and all the entrants for making this a very exciting and enjoyable Series. Thanks go to Phil Hare of GFS as Race Director, David Stenhouse of BSC for the scoring, Alex Palmer DSC as PRO and Simon Oliver, BSC for organising the Trophies.

Thanks also go to the volunteers who manned the Committee Boat:
Riv and Gerry (DSC), Hugh and Xavier (GFS) and Kathy and Phil (BSC).
Thanks to Spot for the Final Race BBQ;
Thanks to Steve Piper for the Final Race presentations.

See you all on the water in Spring!

Yacht Division DSC.