

# HUMBUG

Greenwich Flying Squadron

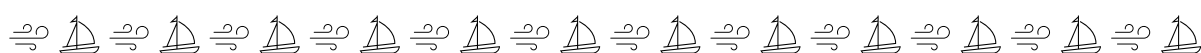


August 2025



*Cover photo Mark Palmer, Tana Saturday racing.*

*Inside this issue: Important dates, Sail fast boot camp, Vale Rosalie Lucas, Saturday sailing, 2025-2026 Twilights, Women's Helm update and thanks to our sponsors.*



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	<b>Protests Convenor/Licensee:</b> Michael Murphy
	<b>Safety Officer:</b> Roger Gee
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	<b>Laser Captain:</b> Michael Wise
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## 2025 - 2026 Sailing Season

### Important Club Events

Year	Month	Day	Date	Event
2025	August	Saturday	16	Equipment Audits Saturday and DH Series
		Wednesday	20	<b>Sail Fast Boot Camp GFS Clubhouse 7.15pm</b>
		Saturday	23	<b>Working Bee - GFS Clubhouse from 9.00am</b>
		Sunday	31	Equipment Audits Saturday - DH and Twilight
	September	Sunday	14	Equipment Audits Twilight Series
		Wednesday	17	<b>Compulsory Skippers' Meeting GFS Clubhouse 7.30pm</b>
		Sunday	28	Equipment Audits Twilight Series
	October	Saturday	18	Women's Helm Training Race - Warning signal 1.15pm
		Tuesday	21	Rules Night – GFS Clubhouse 7.30pm

**Note:** Rolf Lunsman has provided us with a file containing all the calendar entries for the 2025-2026 sailing season. When you choose to install it automatically populates your calendar for the year! We will send out a separate email from Revsport containing this file and instructions on how to load.

### Series Entry Dates

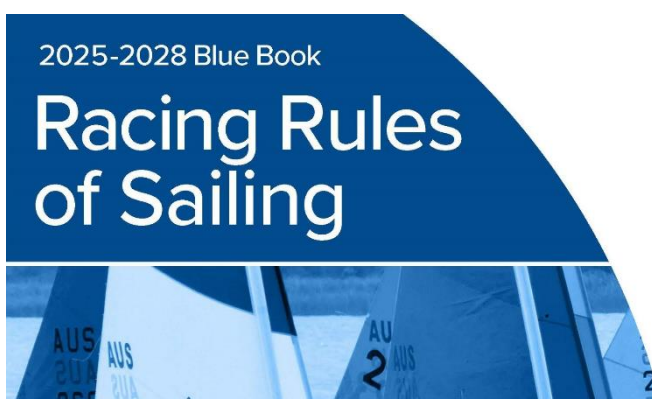
These dates are important to allow time for divisions and handicaps to be assigned prior to the commencement of racing. Please also ensure you are registered in SailSys. For more information see page 11.

Year	Month	Day	Date	Final Dates for Series Entries
2025	August	Saturday	30	Saturday Series
	September	Saturday	6	Down Harbour Series
		Wednesday	24	Twilight Series
	November	Saturday	29	Saturday Summer Series
		Wednesday	26	Twilight Summer Series

The **GFS Sailing Program, Sailing Instructions and Course Sheets** are on the GFS Website to download. [click here](#) for the relevant page. Please note there have been changes to Sailing Instructions (will appear in red) and Courses (including course numbers) from the previous year. ☼ ⚓

## ***Racing Rules of Sailing***

Please be reminded that the current Racing Rules of Sailing is the 2025 – 2028 edition. There is a link on the GFS website to download or [click here](#) for the Australian Sailing link. You are required to have a copy available when racing – either hard copy or digital. ☼ ⚓



## ***Sail Fast Boot Camp***

How to sail fast while keeping it fun and safe for everyone.

Wednesday 20 August, 7.15pm at the Clubhouse

- Sail Fast Boot Camp is a new event on the Club Calendar to bring members together over Winter.
- Learn racing tips; hear from experienced Skippers; meet fellow Club members.
- The event is free and open to all financial members.
- Whether you've been sailing for years or are new to racing, come along and enjoy a fun and engaging evening.
- On the night, you will hear a panel of experienced GFS Skippers discuss topics such as: Race Day Preparation; Racing Techniques; Understanding Sydney Harbour.
- Panel Members Steve Bradley, Phil Hare and Ken Gibson with Leigh McLaughlin facilitating the discussion.
- Arrive 7.15pm for drinks and light snacks provided by Club. Session starts at 7.30pm and concludes at 9.15pm...all welcome to stay on for a drink afterwards.

To help us plan the evening, please let us know if you're coming by Wednesday 13 August. <https://forms.gle/1E3yJ5bDRw4WUBnj6> ☼ ⚓



## Commodore's Column

Steve Bradley: *Commodore*

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 8th, at the clubhouse. We had a great turnout of about 50 members, contributing to a fantastic atmosphere.

Outgoing Commodore John Veale reviewed the past year, highlighting successes like the twilight outside starts and the rejuvenation of our junior program. He noted a small loss of \$7,433 last year, attributed to some unusual expenditures. We



*Photo: Ros Bradley at the AGM*

extended our sincere thanks to John for his three years of dedicated service as Commodore. We also acknowledged and thanked Martin Kluckow, Tim Kannegieter, and Peter Hamilton for their contributions as they stepped down from their committee roles. We're excited to welcome our new committee members: Ken Gibson as Twilight Captain, Jason Anderson as Junior Sailing Captain, Richard Grundy as Treasurer, and Roger Gee as Safety Officer.

The AGM was also delighted to welcome Geoff and Rosalie Lucas as life members, in recognition of their years of contribution and service to the club.

Even though sailing is typically quieter during the winter months, your committee has been diligently working on a range of improvements for the upcoming season. Here's a glimpse of what's underway:

- **Leigh McLaughlin** is developing a **vibrant Women's Helm program** to encourage more female participation in our twilight season.
- **Ken Gibson** is implementing a variety of improvements to enhance our **Twilight Racing experience**.
- **Phil Hare** has already updated and posted the **new season's sailing instructions**.
- **Bram Penberthy** has successfully implemented **Sailsys** as our new, streamlined race management system.
- **Roger Gee** is preparing for our **Safety Audits**, which commence on **August 16th**.

- **Tim Fletcher** has installed **new POS terminals** to significantly improve service at our BBQs.
- Thanks to the **generous donations from many club members**, we've acquired **10 new OptiTackers** for our junior sailing program, and storage is currently being reconfigured to accommodate them.

These ongoing activities align perfectly with my key priorities for the next year:

- **Safety:** Always ensuring safety remains our absolute highest priority.
- **Women:** Actively welcoming more women to the club and increasing their participation in helming.
- **Juniors:** Continuing to train the next generation of sailors and streamlining the junior program for easier operation.
- **Simplicity:** Making the club simpler to access for our members and reducing the workload on our invaluable volunteers, ensuring their efforts are sustainable and appreciated.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved for their hard work and unwavering commitment. I look forward to connecting with you at the clubhouse and continuing to enjoy this truly great club that we are all proud to be a part of. ☺ ⚓

## Do not forget to renew Your 2025-26 Season Membership

*Chris Gaskell (Membership Secretary)*

It's time to renew your membership for the 2025-26 season. We've noticed that our renewal numbers are still a bit low, with just under half of our members having re-signed as of the end of July. We want to see everyone back on the water, so please take a moment to renew your membership.

Renewing is easy and handled entirely online. We sent an invoice to all members on June 8, 2025. This invoice was sent to the email address we have on file for you, so please check your inbox—and your spam or junk folder—for an email from that date.

The invoice includes a secure link to the RevSport payment portal, where you can pay with a credit card. Please note: You must use this link to pay. Attempting to pay through your personal RevSport page will result in an error message. The secure link is the only way to complete your payment.

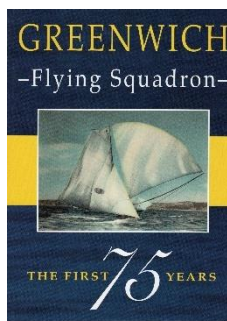
If you have any questions or didn't receive your invoice, please contact Chris at [memberships@gfs.org.au](mailto:memberships@gfs.org.au) We can't wait to see you for another great season! ☺ ⚓

## Vale Rosalie Lucas

The Greenwich Flying Squadron lost one of its most loved and longest-serving members last week with the passing of Rosalie Lucas. Our thoughts are with her family, especially Geoff, during this difficult time. Rosalie had a long and distinguished involvement with GFS over many years. In the late 1990s, she and her husband Geoff dedicated eight years to catering the twilight BBQs. They personally sourced and prepared all the food and drinks—a massive undertaking that is now handled by professional caterers.



Rosalie Lucas with her Lane Cove Citizen of the year award.  
Photo by Alfonso Calero on behalf of Lane Cove Council



In 1999, Rosalie published the definitive history of GFS for the club's 75th anniversary. This massive two-year project captured the many events that have made GFS what it is today, and the book remains a cherished possession for many members. Having been involved in the development of the 100-year book, I can only marvel at the dedication and tenacity she displayed in producing such a work.

Rosalie embodied the spirit of community and the willingness to help others that defines what is good about GFS. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

This week there was a beautiful tribute to Rosalie in "InTheCove" [Click Here](#). ☺ ⚓

## Saturday Sailing for 2025-2026!

Get ready to hoist your sails and enjoy a few hours racing during the day to wind down from the week!

Last year's Saturday fleet, though small, proved that competitive spirit is alive and well with final point scores often separated by just one point. Some boats even finished on equal points!

We're hoping to see more of you out on the water this season. If you've been thinking about getting into Saturday racing, or want to join a competitive and friendly group, now's the perfect time. Saturday sailing is a great way to challenge yourself, improve your sailing skills, and connect with fellow club members winding down on the deck after the race.

We'd love to grow the Saturday fleet and make it a more vibrant part of our club's racing calendar, just like the strong Twilight fleet. Let's make this season one to remember! ☺ ⚓

## Twilights 2025 – 2026

*Ken Gibson (Twilight Captain)*

With Leigh McLaughlin moving on to become Vice Commodore, I will be the new Twilight Captain for this season. I have been sailing at GFS for over 20 years, most recently with Adrian and Maree Van Bellen on *Joli*.



Thanks to all who responded to the survey earlier this year. You indicated you liked the changes made last season and suggested a few more. For 2025/6:

- **OUTSIDE STARTS:** We will continue with outside starts for the first 4 and last 4 races for the season. There will only be 1 outside start line (set north-south, to the east of Cockatoo).
- **SHORTENED COURSES:** For races that start and finish at the club, we will trial a shortened course option. When a race is shortened, the finish line will be at the southern end of humbug instead of at the club. This will allow us to avoid the risk of boats getting stuck in Humbug in a dying breeze. A shortened course will be notified by (a) VHF; (b) text message to all skippers; and (c) Code Flag 'S' flown from the club launch.
- **MINOR CHANGES TO COURSES AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** David Edmiston has tweaked the courses slightly, and we've introduced a new prohibited sailing area around the southern side of Cockatoo Island either side of Camber Wharf. More on that at the Skippers Briefing.
- **NEW 'SAIL FAST BOOT CAMP'** offered – feel free to join us on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm – all welcome.
- **UPGRADED WOMEN'S HELM SERIES** – See the separate article in this edition

It's time to start preparing for the twilight season. Here is a checklist:

- Renew your GFS membership
- Enter your boat in the SailSYS system, and then enter the twilight series
- Complete your equipment audit (Sun Aug 31, Sun Sep 14 or Sun Sep 28)
- Make sure your insurance is up to date
- Attend the Skippers Briefing (Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup> @7:30pm)
- Prepare for the first race on Wednesday October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, we strongly encourage you all to attend the Rules Night on Tuesday October 21 when we'll be joined again by Erica Kirby, a National Sailing Judge who also races at Balmain. ☺ ⚓



## Women's Helm Development Program 2025-2026

*Leigh McLaughlin (Vice Commodore)*

The **Women's Helm Development Program** (WH) is a flagship activity of the Club's mission to increase women's participation. The program is a partnership between boat owners, skippers, crews and GFS women.

The WH consists of **five races held on the last Wednesday of the month during Twilights, excluding December**, supported by information and practice events. The dates are **29 October, 26 November, 28 January, 25 February, 25 March**.

- If you're an experienced Skipper and would like to share your knowledge, please nominate as a Mentor. <https://forms.gle/VstY9QUnRwFioNaq8>
- If you're a woman with some sailing experience who would like to helm, please nominate here. <https://forms.gle/YqTUmKmv5rGCsry9>
- If you're interested but not sure, please get in touch to discuss.

Boat Owners/Skippers who enter go into the Women's Helm Draw to have an expert sailor join their boat in a future race to offer tips and advice. We are lucky to have Laser and Ocean Racing sailor Vanessa Dudley as our Advisor and Champion of this initiative. Vanessa has an enormous list of sailing credits to her name, is a previous winner of Australian Female Sailor of the Year and a former editor of Australian Sailing.

The Women's Helm is managed by a Committee consisting of Leigh McLaughlin, Pam Joy, John Veale and Ken Gibson.

### Facilitating matches

Where boats have regular female crew, they will decide amongst themselves who the Mentor and Helmswoman are for the season. If there is more than one woman on the crew, they are asked to nominate *one* Helmswoman for the series as this allows for the best learning outcomes.

Other matches will be facilitated by the WH Committee, drawing from a list of Mentors and Helmswomen who have lodged an expression of interest. Once a match is made, ideally the woman will become a regular member of her Mentor's crew for the Season, although this is not essential.

Mentors and Helmswomen need to have confidence in each other and an understanding of how they will work together. This requires an investment of time and effort from those involved.

## Education and Training

At the core of the event is the provision of mentoring by the usual Skipper to the novice Helmswoman. Participants are asked to come with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and clear, respectful communication.

Participants should aim to complete all five WH races if possible. If they wish, the Helmswoman may be invited to helm during other races in the Season.

Complementary events include:

### ***On Water***

*Pre-Season Practice* – The Mentor organises for the Helmswoman and usual crew to go for a sail to get to know each other and begin the learning process.

*Pre-WH Training Race* – a Training Race will be held on Saturday 18 October immediately following the usual Saturday race. This event will replicate a Twilight Race with the goal of Helmswomen learning about the start, listening to radio calls, understanding the course, applying RRS and safe sailing. Participation in the Training Race is strongly recommended for all WH participants.

For the full details on the women's helm development program including scoring and sailing instructions [click here](#).

Keep an eye on the new GFS Woman tab on the website for updates.

<https://gfs.org.au/yachts/gfs-women/> 

## SailSys Entries

Before you race in either a Saturday or Twilight series race at GFS you will need to enter your yacht online through the **SailSys Entry System**. Once registered you will be able to enter events at GFS and other clubs or regattas.

Each Series must be entered separately and please only enter the series in which you intend to sail. ☼ ⚓

To enter, go to – <https://app.sailsys.com.au/club/14/entry?tab=entry>

## From the Editor

*Tim Fletcher: Editor*

The **West harbour winter series** has certainly tested sailing skills and patience. The race on July 27 was the first with stronger winds and made for some exciting sailing. The lighter winds in the first races really forced us to think about sail setup and tactics much harder. I am looking forward to the **sail-fast workshop at the club on the 20<sup>th</sup>** to learn more from the group

We just went down to the boat this week to review readiness for the safety audit over the coming weeks. While we thought it was going to be a formality, we did find a couple of things needing replacing. Worth checking for sure!

Looking forward to seeing you on the water and around the club! ☼ ⚓



*Photo: Mark Palmer, West Harbour, July 27*

## GFS Sponsors

### Helly Hansen



Helly Hansen is a company manufacturing professional grade gear. It offers technical sailing and performance ski apparel, as well as premium workwear. The Company provides clothing and footwear for sailing, hiking and other outdoor activities.

### Joe Walsh Rigging

Joe Walsh Rigging specialises in all marine and architectural rigging, masts and spar fabrication, repair, painting, all rigging requirements, furling systems and AYF Rig Insurance Inspections. Located at Woolwich Marina.



### Doyle Sails Sydney



Doyle Sails Sydney is in Gladesville. Services include an in-house design team, laser cutter and modern machinery for new sails, repairs, covers and ongoing service.

### Oatley Wines



Robert Oatley Wines celebrates the memory of Bob Oatley through a trio of labels: the maritime-influenced Signature Series, the specific vineyard focused Finisterre, and the best of the best barrels under The Pennant label. They focus on wines from Margaret River and McLaren Vale.

### Zjoosh ZJOOSH

Located in Lane Cove, Zjoosh is a unique Australian lifestyle brand. It specialises in "the finishing touches". From its early beginnings as a fashion jewellery and accessories brand, Zjoosh has now broadened to homeware and gifts.

### GWM Pennant Hills

GWM Pennant Hills is a family-owned business that has been operating at the same location at Thornleigh, since 1984. The business has maintained a strong association with GFS for over 20 years. GWM offers a modern and dynamic range of electric vehicles (EVs), hybrids, SUVs, Utes, and FWD vehicles.

