

## MBYC – Sailing Section Monthly Report June - July



The first Winter Series event was held on Sunday 20 June and the return to the original social sailing format was a resounding success. In the SAGS the day before 19 boats took part. The Sunday Winter Series event had 18 official participants. This compares with 7 in the previous year's event. The only down side was the gradual drop in wind strength resulting in a few non-finishers. The prize for those persevering and gaining placings was rewarding being in the form of \$50, \$30 and \$20 MBBC vouchers for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. The rewards were not so great in the SAGS the previous day. In that event, only 2 boats actually reached the first mark. A third boat was within 200 metres but the ETA on its chart plotter was actually increasing. With distance to the mark becoming asymptotic, a return to MBBC under motor was unavoidable. I believe *Big Pictures* was the last to turn and motor home.

Not to be outdone, the *Industrial Plastics* sponsored Winter Series event on Sunday 11 July also finished as a drifter. At Garnet Rock, there were around 6 yachts out of the fleet of 18 that had a potential to finish with a gentle breeze picking up. Within 30 minutes the promising breeze dropped out and no more breeze lines were evident on the horizon. One by one the skippers abandoned the event. Congratulations to *Midnight Oil* and *Outsidedge* for being the only boats to finish. Yes, contrary to SAGS rules, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes were awarded.

The SAGS of Saturday 19 June raised the matter of the validity of the 1 minute bonus for yachts competing in an event but not finishing. This has been debated a number of times since its introduction more than 20 years ago. Theoretically, the 6, 4 and 2 minute penalties stand up on their own. However, sociologically, this was seen to be not the case. The members recognized that non-participants, infrequent participants and participants (other than place getters) were all treated equally though not participating equally. The members decided to introduce a "bonus" for those who participate. Hence, the 1 minute bonus for all participants in any event. The discussion extended to participants who were unable to finish. It was decided that participants making their best endeavour to complete the course must also receive the 1 minute bonus. After all, the 1 minute was a participation incentive. Not too long ago (approx. 5 years) the matter was again debated. This debate was prompted by an interesting SAGS event where not one boat was able to reach the first mark with some even becalmed for a couple of hours just beyond the start line. Their movement was tidal. Subsequently, the members decided that a boat spending 2 hours on the water trying to make headway has participated in the event and must receive the bonus minute. This was made known to all via the SAGS and WAGS start sheets with the addition of the statement "*All participating yachts will receive a 1 min. handicap advantage for the following event. Participation is achieved by completing a significant portion of the event*". The significant portion may be either distance or time. The bonus minute was to be applied even if no participants completed the event. It is a bonus for participating.

Last month the committee received a request for a sail number. Part of the request related to the prefix to be used. Previous prefixes were either RP (the most common) or R. A search of Yachting Australia allocated prefixes indicated that neither RP nor R were registered with YA. A request for the prefix MB to be formally allocated to the MBYC has been successful. The only other club with a registered MB prefix is Mounts Bay in Western Australia. That is far enough away. The first use of the prefix is most likely to be *Elan* using the sail number MB123. This is a follow on from the last known allocated sail number - RP122. The use of the allocated prefix is not compulsory, however, if any member wishes to change, they can retain their existing numeral suffix. For example, if your sail number is RP100, you could change it to MB100. But please advise the secretary. Duplicate sail numbers can be embarrassing.

The AGM is now imminent and nominations for committee positions have been slow. This appears to be a MBYC trait. Remember, we cannot operate as a club without a formal committee. The most important positions are President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions will be vacant and must be filled. The work of previous management committees has been such that committee member involvement is not excessively time consuming. Become a committee member and be privy to much comedy relief from various quarters.

Until next time – good sailing.

Darryl Wright

MBYC vice-president