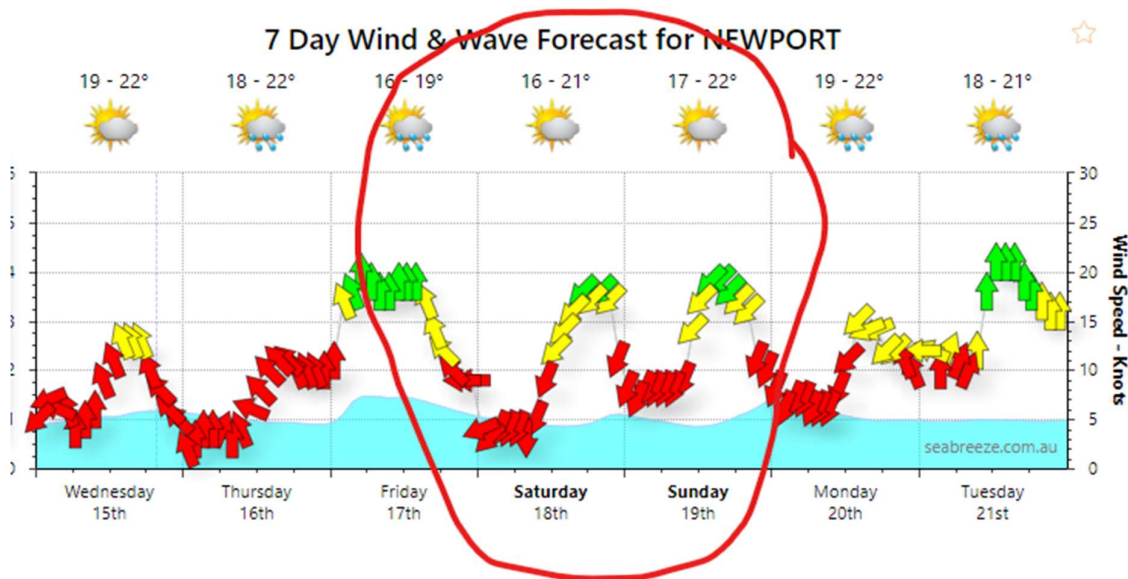


PBSC Beware the Bullets – 2023

With the lasting memories of the past two Bullets regattas being 35 degree temperatures and howling westerlies it was with a sense of relief and expectation as the forecast stabilised during the week to be what could be considered perfect conditions on what PBSC Commodore Dick Clarke made the bold statement as “the worlds most beautiful waterway.”



Saturday was epic wind wise with the actual wind strength exceeding the forecast considerably, peaking at 25 knots in the gusts at the top mark where the wind accelerates over the low Palm Beach sand dunes. Many capsizes and rescues by race 3 across all fleets, with the call made for back to the beach after the third race.

The Saturday night fleet dinner at Club Palm Beach was a great chance for sailors to recount their stories of glory from the days racing.

With Saturday's beating and the forecast for Sunday being stronger and earlier, races were underway by 10:30am in an ominous northerly shifting between N and NE for a short race 1. The breeze then quickly settled into the predicted NE and steadily but quickly grew in strength over the next 3 races to around 18 knots. Let the photos do the talking on the brilliant sunshine, flat water and a beautiful location.

In the Hobie 14s Rod and Mick tussled for the lead with Darren often splitting the two however Rod prevailed. In the Hobie 16s Anthony and Evelyn won with a perfect scorecard. In the H18s John and Bronte didn't have it all their own way but managed to prevail over James and Emily. In the F16/F18 fleet Luke and Megan narrowly won in the largest fleet of the regatta.

With all this talk of results and familiar and deserving names at the front of the fleets its easy to forget the real winners and what makes a regatta like this so special. We had the largest family and kid contingent as a % of the fleet for as long as we can remember.

For example:

Ian Marcovitch and daughter Jani

Andrew Williams and son Lachy

David Tallis and daughter Emma coming 3rd in their first ever catamaran race!

Steve Brewin and daughter Isabella sailing in her first regatta

Mark Webb and daughter Emma were the only H18s to do all 7 races

Peter Skewes and son Bailey steadily ramping up their training for the Worrall 1000

Noah Skewes and Hayley Fisher who for the first time finished all races on the Sunday in significant wind without capsizing

Adam and Marja Beattie with their 6 year old son Zane sailing 3 up.

Brother and sister James and Emily Henderson who took two races off John and Bronte fair and square

John and Bronte Forbes who have been instrumental in growing family participation at this regatta

Rod, Bridget and Kerry Waterhouse all on their Hobie 14s at some point

Megan Fisher sailing with Luke Ratcliff winning her first F16 regatta after a 5 knot training session the week before

Rose Cookson sailing with Scott Kesteven to their best ever result, thriving in the strong conditions.

Anthony Abbott and son Lewis astounding all with Lewis's helming skills

Murray Makin and daughter Danielle back in Murrays home waters.

Tom Fripp sailing with Jon Hoile improving every race

An impressive list!

Impressiveness only surpassed by Upu. Whereas when us mere mortals break a tiller extension, we head back to the beach to raid sailboxes and miss the next race. Not Upu, he sails to the remote beach of the National Park, finds some driftwood and in the one concession to the modern world substitutes jute or hemp for a modern alternative, lashes it together and head back to arrive as the one minute flag is lowered ready to go!



Thank you to all the sailors for continuing to attend the PBSC Beware The Bullets regatta and a big thanks to all the volunteers and supporters over the weekend for continuing to make .

Plenty of photos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pbscoz>

Results are here:

<http://pbsc.org.au/>