

Request for Redress application has been filed by yacht J24 #1048 "Spooky" regarding Thursday night August 24, 2023 J24 race at Malletts Bay Boat Club. After consulting with numerous eminent and experienced racing luminaries, and taking evidence from appropriate sources, I offer the following, as MBBC Race Committee chair, standing in as Protest Committee:

1. At the time of the J24 start, the line was extremely skewed towards the pin end, resulting in a pile-up of boats attempting to start at that end of the line. This was due to a combination of a left windshift, plus the accumulated local knowledge that it pays to go left early when the wind is coming out of Bayside Park. Windspeed varied approximately 5-15 knots, and 10-15 degrees in direction, during the total 25 minute starting sequence for all the fleets, making it difficult for the Race Committee (RC) to maintain a line that was square to the wind for all 5 fleet starting sequences.
2. Due to many boats being bunched up and over the line early, the gloom of the stormy evening making it difficult to see sail numbers at the far end of the line, and the approaching early sunset, the RC decided to sound one horn and fly the Individual Recall flag (X) instead of the General Recall (First Substitute) flag. At least two boats who believed they were over early, including #1048, returned to the line and restarted. According to evidence collected by the committee, several boats that were over early did not return to the line. In addition, further evidence indicates that several boats positions were compromised by their efforts to avoid being over early.
3. RRS 64.3 requires the Protest Committee to make "as fair an arrangement as possible for all boats affected, whether or not they asked for redress."
4. DECISION: In order to be as fair as possible to all concerned, this race shall be *abandoned*.

Michael Quaid, Chair
Malletts Bay Race Committee