**RFBYC Dragon Fleet/WAIDA Handicapper’s Report**

**Season 2023-2024**

1. Handicapper’s Objectives

(a) To bridge the delta between the “over-the-line” and the “corrected” finishing times.

(b) To give all race participants a fair chance of a podium placing on handicap corrected results irrespective of boat/equipment/crew (but provided the boat is sailed and the crew performs to its/their ability).

(c) Over the course of the season, to share podium announced placings across as many of the participants as is reasonably possible.

(d) As a corollary to the foregoing, to develop an enthusiasm to sail and compete amongst participants and to encourage an esprit-de-corp within the Dragon class and its members.

2. Season 2023/2024

The season saw:

1. 17 consistency races over the season.
2. 22 boats on the register with all boats racing at least at some time during the season.
3. On average 10.5 boats sailing each Saturday in a range of:

* High - 14 boats (early Nov)
* Low – 7 boats (early Feb)

(d) Handicap “corrected time” podium places being shared with:

* 12 different boats winning at least 1x race and only 3 boats winning more than 1x race
* Only 2 boats picking up more than 2 x 2nd place pennants
* Only 3 boats picking up more than 2 x 3rd place pennants
* Only 3 boats picking up more than 3 handicap corrected podium finishes (1st, 2nd or 3rd) across the entire season
* 17 boats featuring at some time during the season with a podium result.

(e) To gain an appreciation of overall handicap impact on “over-the-line” finishing times the following analysis assumes the elimination of the last placegetter (to smooth out anomalies):

* Average time spread of fleet finishes “over the line” = 8.2 minutes
* Average time spread of fleet finishes “handicap corrected” = 5.3 minutes

i.e. 35% bridging of the delta on this metric

3. Observations

(a) “Consistency is King”

(i) The 7 leading boats on consistency scoring at season end, sailed at least 13 of the available 17 consistency races.

(ii) “Shapes” as the overall handicap consistency winner never won on handicap in any race during the season (but 4 x 2nd and 4 x 3rd).

(iii) The 3 x podium awardees for the overall handicap consistency trophy only won 2 x 1st places on handicap between them across the season.

(b) IMPORTANT: ADVICE TO CLUB AND HANDICAPPER ON CHANGE OF NOMINATED SKIPPER

Handicaps are largely assessed and allotted on the combined perceived attributes of the boat and its skipper. If the usually nominated skipper changes for a race then it is NECESSARY to advise both the Club Sailing Office and the Handicapper of the change to determine whether a handicap adjustment (up or down) is warranted for that race. Merely completing “MemberPoint” is not such a notification. If there are (say) 2x regular skippers, then an option is to agree with the handicapper a set handicap differential between those 2 skippers for the season (if a variation is warranted) – but the notification must still be made for each race. The absence of change of skipper notification can lead to an inappropriate handicap which may distort a fair handicap result for other boats in the race.

4. Congratulations to Seasonal Silverware Handicap Winners

(a) Pre-Christmas Handicap Consistency

* 1st - AUS213 Shapes (G Totterdell and Crew)
* 2nd - AUS222 Gordon (R Lynn and Crew)
* 3rd - AUS223 Canewdon Witch (T Ford and Crew)

(b) Post-Christmas Handicap Consistency

* 1st - AUS213 Shapes (G Totterdell and Crew)
* 2nd - AUS201 Wizzardry (R Chatfield and Crew)
* 3rd - AUS218 Indulgence (K Palassis and Crew)

(c) Overall Season Handicap Consistency

* 1st - AUS213 Shapes (G Totterdell and Crew)
* 2nd - AUS201 Wizzardry (R Chatfield and Crew)
* 2nd - AUS223 Canewdon Witch (T Ford and Crew

**Steven Cole**

**Handicapper**