

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club – Request for Redress

Event – Wednesday Autumn Series - Race 8 on 8 April 2026

Boat Requesting Redress – Condor (sail no AUS39) – represented by Mark Hellyer

Race Committee – represented by Steve Howe

Parties –

1. Pretty Woman (sail no 545) – represented by Richard Hudson
2. Vento (sail no 400) – represented by Campbell Letchford
3. Windy Too (sail no 6024) – represented by Alice Lydement

The Protest Committee declared the Request for Redress valid.

Facts found:

1. Condor was approaching the Towlers Bay Mark, sailing Course 5.
2. The Race Committee, having decided to shorten the course, established a finishing line parallel to the leg between the Avalon Mark and the Towlers Bay Mark, approximately 250 m from the latter.
3. The Race Committee correctly signalled the shortened course. It radioed the fleet twice with instructions to round the Towlers Bay Mark and proceed to the finishing line to West.
4. Condor heard a signal but was unclear as to its content. She tried to radio the Race Committee for clarification, but neither the Race Committee nor the other parties heard any call from her.
5. Condor rounded the Towlers Bay Mark to starboard and sailed towards the Avalon Mark, the next leg of the course.
6. Vento, was heading towards the Towlers Bay Mark and, when passing Condor, she tried to alert her to the location of the finishing line.
7. All the other competitors crossed the finishing line.
8. The Race Committee did not signal a change of course at the Towlers Bay Mark.
9. The finishing line was not on a leg of the course.
10. Condor's radio appeared to be faulty.

Conclusions:

1. In not signalling a change of course at the Towlers Bay Mark, the Race Committee did not comply with RRS 33.
2. The finishing line's location did not comply with RRS 32.2 and RPAYC SI 20.2.

Decision: Whilst Condor's score in the race was made significantly worse by the improper action of the Race Committee, her request for redress is denied as it was not without fault of her own.

Note: The Protest Committee will be making recommendations to the Club about conducting races.

Protest Committee: Steve Hatch (Chair,) Jim Gordon, Liz de Soyres and Stephen Merrington

Date: 22 April 2026