



**SFS NEWSLETTER FOR 8 MARCH 2017**

Last Saturday was the annual Sydney Harbour Regatta and our Historic 18-footers were registered as participants, while sailing the fourth heat of the Club's Autumn Series. The conditions were testing for all concerned. Bob Chapman's Race Report this week provides a vivid account. Well done all - to the four skiffs that competed and stayed upright to the end, providing our ferry patrons with their fix of great sailing for the week, and to our two big boats, Tangalooma and Britannia, rigged up, in the water, and ready to race. Britannia did start the race before deciding to return to base. It was challenging just getting out to the start line.



Many thanks to Michael Chittenden on Camera Cat (covering the J J Giltinans for the League) for providing this great shot of Aberdare waiting for the handicap start in Athol Bay.

And grateful thanks too to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for lending us a RIB as a stand in safety boat last Saturday, while Rippleside and Grey RIB were employed in running the JJ Giltinans for the modern 18s at the League. We could not have gone out without the extra RIB and the RSYS's assistance was much appreciated.

And what an enthralling series the 2017 JJs was, with thrills and spills aplenty and superb athletic sailing. Congratulations to Thurlow Fisher Lawyers for their win. Another one for the history books in the great sport of 18-footers' sailing.

A reminder that Ian Smith's excellent history of the origin, evolution and construction of the 18-footers is now available for purchase - see the promo in this newsletter. It is



[The Race Report](#)

[Article Headline](#)

**SPECTATOR FERRY - FOLLOW THE FLEET!**



The Rosman Ferry Regal departs the SFS wharf at 2pm

Saturdays during the sailing season.

Tickets from the Sydney Flying Squadron  
76 McDougall Street, Kirribilli.

\$20 members

\$25 non members

Commentary and a race program provided.  
Bookings recommended.



**SAIL WELL, STAY WELL**

If you are over 18, come and join us to sail on one of our wonderful 18 foot skiffs or become part of our race management team on the safety and start boats.

a "must have" for all interested in the 18-footers.

Congratulations to The Mistake for their win on Saturday (sorry, no photograph this week to mark the moment). Australia IV came in fourth after a great ride from Shark Island to the finish and here is their photo to show open boat sailing, even in the rain, is exhilarating.



Only three more races in the Autumn Series. Make sure you don't miss out. Book your place on the ferry and come along. See you at the Club.

Adrienne Jackson - Editor.

## SFS Race Report Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017

by Bob Chapman, 6 Mar 2017.

Race 21 of the 2016-17 Season, the Sydney Harbour Regatta and Fourth Heat of the Autumn Point Score. Another wet and soggy Saturday for the crews and supporters as 6 skiffs prepared for the day's racing, hopeful of getting out onto the water this week. For those contemplating which rig to use, conditions certainly appeared variable from the south but switching around in direction and velocity along with the occasional shower of rain. The yachts competing in the early races of the Sydney Harbour Regatta provided a useful indication of conditions at that stage. Most skiffs decided on no.2 mainsail with some variations in jib size, while Britannia had a reefed main and no.3 jib. Some skiffs made a late change to a smaller jib, while Tangalooma after setting out early, returned to the boat ramp to reef their mainsail. The breeze had freshened considerably from the south at this late stage.

Conditions were "fresh to frightening" and well above the upper limit of the rigs in use, as the skiffs made their way to the starting area in Athol Bay, where the team on the Killara II had setup for a handicap start on the no.4 Southerly course, but with the shortened course flag already displayed - it would be a one lap race. Nancy certainly had her work cut-out holding up the start boards in the boisterous conditions, and she did a fine job. Also noticeable, all of the yachts that earlier had been racing had now disappeared, the remainder of their races for the day abandoned; whilst the fleet of Modern 18s were heading out from Double Bay in preparation for the penultimate Race 6 of the J.J. Giltinan Series - the harbour was now an exclusive 18 footer venue.

Britannia was first away, followed 2 mins later by The Mistake and Alruth, then Australia IV closer to the 9 min mark after a delay in getting away, then a gap back to Aberdare off 2 mins. Tangalooma on making their way towards the start (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time) decided it was more prudent to not continue and returned to the club without further issue.



We provide all needed training.

It's free, fun, active and exhilarating on the best harbour in the world!

Please contact us on  
9955 8350, or  
info@sydneyflyingsquadron.  
com.au

### SETTING SAIL FOR THE GREAT WAR



STORIES OF THE SAILORS LISTED  
ON THE WWI HONOR ROLL OF THE  
SYDNEY FLYING SQUADRON AND  
SYDNEY SAILING CLUB

Buy your copy for  
\$35.00 for members of  
the SFS or \$45 for non-  
members.

Launched at the Sydney Flying Squadron by the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, on 27 March 2016, the book sold out on the day.

Now reprinted, the book has great photos and stories of amazing lives and times. Of the men on the Honor Roll, 27 died on active service, 49 were wounded and nine died of wounds or war-related illness. The book ensures the debt to all of them is recorded, and their contribution to our great sailing legacy acknowledged. Something to treasure!

The Australian Historical Sailing  
Skiff Association (AHSSA)



Britannia was struggling with the conditions up the first beat to Clark Island and about 2/3rds of the way upwind decided to call it a day and returned to the club. Meanwhile The Mistake and Alruth were enjoying an epic upwind struggle in the testing conditions. The Mistake was first to round the island for the run to Chowder Bay, followed by Alruth where both leading skiffs enjoyed a fast ride in fresh breeze while Australia IV and Aberdare encountered lighter conditions before they could round the island. The Mistake and Alruth made the most of the situation to extend their lead on the run to Chowder where they rounded with a clear lead over Australia IV and Aberdare.

Whilst the extreme conditions at the start had abated, the beat up to Shark Island was still a testing exercise, with The Mistake maintaining their lead to round the island in first place for the long run back to Kirribilli. Alruth rounded in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a gap back to Aberdare then Australia IV. At this stage the breeze had lightened off with Aberdare able to carry a peak-head spinnaker whilst the others carried mast-head spinnakers.



The breeze at Kirribilli was light and that is where the race ended with The Mistake a clear winner from Alruth, Aberdare and Australia IV. Well done to all skippers, crews and support team for managing the testing conditions in a seamanlike manner.

With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Brian, Peter, Adrienne, Nancy, Chuck, Bill and the rest of our tireless volunteers, along with the dedicated team at Rosman Ferries. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie.

#### Results for Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Race 21	04-Mar-17	Hcp Start	#4 Course	Sth	10-30kts		
Skiff	Skipper	Race Hcap	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H'cap Time	New Hcap
The Mistake	T. Stewart	0:13	14:17:00	15:25:16	1:08:16	0:55:16	11
Alruth	R. Tickner	0:13	14:17:00	15:27:57	1:10:57	0:57:57	12
Aberdare	M. Chapman	0:02	14:28:00	15:32:08	1:04:08	1:02:08	2
Australia IV	D. Swales	0:10	14:20:00	15:34:25	1:14:25	1:04:25	10
Britannia	I. Smith	0:15	14:15:00	DNF			15
Tangalooma	P. Legrove	0:15	DNC				15
Scot	G. Kaye	0:12	DNC				12
Australia	I. Pretty	0:06	DNC				6
Myra Too	P. Barnett	0:08	DNC				8
Yendys	R. Killick	0:00	DNC				0



is the class association representing the replica historic 18 and 10 footers and the Taipan class. As such they keep the issues of the maritime heritage of Sydney Harbour in the public eye at events such as the Wooden Boat Festivals, intrastate, interstate and overseas regattas. It is a medium to keep heritage and sailing enthusiasts together whilst promoting host sailing clubs and their endeavours.

Annual membership is \$20 which includes a monthly newsletter delivered electronically or by post. To become a member download the application form from the Association's website <http://ahssa.weebly.com> or by email contact to [ahssa@y7mail.com](mailto:ahssa@y7mail.com) or write to P.O. Box 48 Drummoyne, NSW, 2047.

Also view website [nswtens.weebly.com](http://nswtens.weebly.com) for the latest news on replica historic skiffs.

If you are visiting the Sydney Flying Squadron on a Saturday, please make yourself known to either of the following:

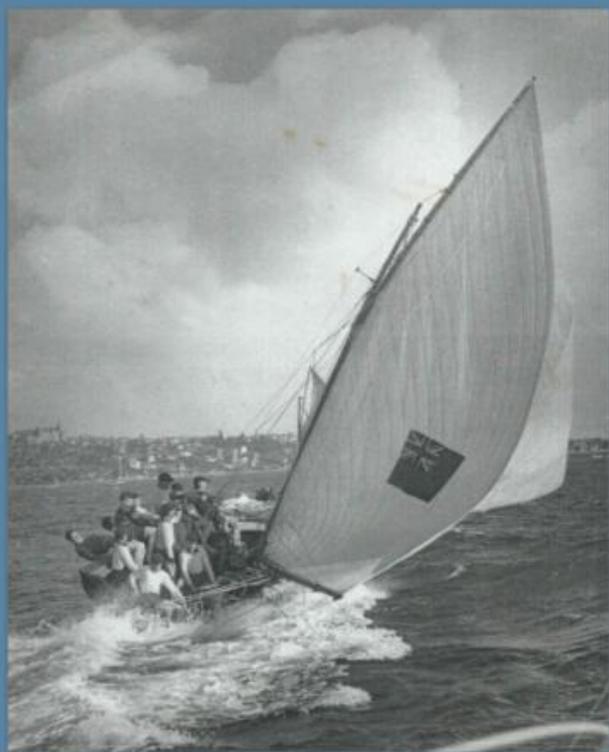
Ian Smith, President - owner/builder and skipper "Britannia"  
 Ian Graves, Honorary Secretary - crew member "Aberdare"  
 Coral Taylor, Honorary Treasurer - crew member "Tangalooma".

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Skiff	Season Point Score	Autumn Point Score	Ringtail Point Score
Aberdare	41	9	11
Alruth	50	10	0
Australia	3	0	0
Australia IV	49	14	2
Britannia	31	3	12
Myra Too	0	0	0
Scot	33	11	0
Tangalooma	45	4	0
The Mistake	55	14	5
Yendys	21	2	6

# The OPEN BOAT

The Australian 18 Footer  
Origin, Evolution and Construction



Ian Hugh Smith

Folklore tells us that the 18-footers evolved out of working boats, but no-one had ever worked out exactly how that happened.

Now Britannia skipper and boatbuilder, Ian Smith, has followed the trail and written it all down in The Open Boat. The 200-page book also contains details of how the boats were built, based on interviews ten years ago with seven boatbuilders who did it in the day and his own record of building the Britannia replica.

It is a limited print run and a "must have" book if you are interested in 18-footers.

You can obtain your copy for \$75 by going to <http://sydneywoodenboatschool.com.au/product/the-open-boat/> or by prior arrangement at the Sydney Flying Squadron. More information on the 18-footers and other classes on [www.openboat.com.au](http://www.openboat.com.au)

This newsletter was written by Bob Chapman and Adrienne Jackson, photographs by Adrienne Jackson Formatted by Nick Mulcahy.

Contributions sought and welcomed. Email your news, photos, opinions to: [sfsnewslettersite@gmail.com](mailto:sfsnewslettersite@gmail.com). Don't be reticent. Be part of the SFS community and share your stories. It is a Club rich in history and the richer for the participation of all its members.