

# SFS NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2017

Another year draws to a close and with it, the 126th year of wonderful sailing at the Sydney Flying Squadron.

December's three Historical 18-Footers' race days were all very different, in format and conditions. On 2 December, we had the normal handicap start and a not-so-normal "race abandoned" call, due to the westerly squall that affected all sailing boats on the harbour at the time. On 9 December, the scratch start for a Club Championship was a gift to photographers on a sparkling summer's day. For the final race of the year on 16

December, sailors and ferry spectators alike enjoyed three close races on the one-lap triangular sprint course which was Mark Foy's original concept when he founded the Sydney Flying Squadron in 1891.

Scot was declared the overall winner of the sprint series and, therefore, has the featured photograph in this newsletter. A stirring sight! Congratulations to Greg Kay, Jamie Watt and all the Scot crew.



This Club is fortunate to have Bob Chapman writing the race reports and compiling the points' tables with his sailing expertise and gift for depicting the conditions and atmosphere in prose. His full race report for Race 11 is included in this newsletter. It

is said that a picture is worth a thousand words, but the pictures are enhanced by descriptions to bring the photographs into perspective. Accordingly this month, the usual images section of this newsletter includes excerpts from Bob's race reports for 2 and 9 December to ensure you can savour the full picture. We appreciate having access to Craig Ligibel's great photographs from his day out with the SFS on 2 December. Craig is now back in Annapolis, where those of us who went on the Sandbaggers' Challenge first met him. He has written up his Sydney Harbour experiences for the local sailing magazine for the Chesapeake Bay.

In Around the Club, we come to terms with the unexpected retirement of one of our stalwart skippers, Peter Legrove from Tangalooma. Plus there are some bibs and bobs from our sailing club's life.

Sailing for the Historical 18-Footers resumes on Saturday, 13 January 2018, with Heat 4 of the Summer Series and another potentially thrilling race for sailors,



## SPECTATOR FERRY - FOLLOW THE FLEET!



The Rosman Ferry Regal departs the SFS wharf at 2 pm

Saturdays during the sailing season.

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

Life Members: - \$15

SFS Members: - \$25

Non-members: - \$30

Children under 16: - \$15

Commentary and a race program provided.

Bookings recommended.



## THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN SKIFF TRUST



The AOST was established in 2007

spectators and volunteers alike. The 12 footers will be at the Interdominions in Auckland.

Have an enjoyable holiday break, travel safely, and we will see you soon for more great sailing, good company and exciting edge-of-the-seat racing that sums up the Sydney Flying Squadron.

Season's Greetings to all and a very Happy New Year.

Adrienne Jackson, Editor.

## Results for Sat 16th December 2017

by Bob Chapman, 18 Dec 2017.

Race 11 of the 2017-18 Season and Heat Three of the Summer and Season Point Scores, and the last race day for the year. Today's event would take the form of a one day regatta to mark the occasion of the 126th Anniversary of the first event run under Mark Foy's rules back in 1891 - ie 3 races from a handicap start on a 1 lap triangular course, with a point score system applied to determine an overall result for the day.

Conditions were hot and humid in the boat park with the prospect of a cooling sea breeze to provide some relief during the afternoon. 8 skiffs were on hand for this event, most decided on carrying full size no.2 rigs, with a couple opting for slightly smaller configurations. The harbour was at its sparkling best but also very busy with the Sail

Sydney regatta in full swing not to mention the additional commercial charter and recreational craft in action at this time of year. The course for the day would start off Clark Island with a beat into a NE breeze to Taylor Bay, a reach to Shark Island and square run to the finish off Clark Island. Skiff handicaps were reduced to 1/3rd of their normal making for a quick dispatch by the starter.

Race 1 - Britannia was first away with the remaining boats soon in hot pursuit. The fresh breeze suited Britannia's smaller rig and she reveled in the upwind conditions to lead at Taylor Bay for the tight main/jib reach across the harbour to Shark Island with Scot and The Mistake chasing hard. After the gybe mark at Shark the skiffs set spinnakers for a square run back to the start/finish line. Scot moved into the lead to win the race from The Mistake, Britannia (under ringtail), Aberdare (broken stay wire), Alruth, Australia IV and Tangalooma. Yendys suffered an unfortunate and terminal bow-down fill-up on the last run that ended their racing for the day.



Race 2 - Similar conditions, breeze a bit fresher and a bit more left (NNE). Britannia started on port at the pin-end and carried on for a while before tacking onto starboard; the remaining skiffs started on starboard for a long leg to Bradleys Head, with some getting caught out by the wind shadow at Bradleys and/or other yachts negotiating the same corner of the harbour. Britannia was first to round at Taylor Bay and held a good lead for the leg to Shark Island, with The Mistake, Scot and Aberdare chasing hard. Britannia continued to lead for the final run (under ringtail) to win the race from The Mistake, Aberdare, Scot, Tangalooma and Australia IV. Alruth was a casualty in this race, when attempting to pinch to windward to sail above the cardinal mark on the eastern side of Bradleys, the run-in tide was working against them, they "brushed" the post with their mainsail and then it was "curtains" as they rolled the leeward gunwale under for a terminal fill-up.

to promote, build and maintain Historic 18-foot skiffs. It owns seven of the eleven replica Historic 18-foot skiffs that sail from the Sydney Flying Squadron. All funding is from donations and bequests. Donations to the Trust, through the Australian Sports Foundation, are tax deductible.

To donate go to [www.ssf.org.au](http://www.ssf.org.au) and click "donate to sport". Enter Australian Open Skiff Trust in the "find a project" field, click "search" and scroll down and then click "donate" in the bottom left hand corner, then fill in the required information.

Email: [australianopenskifftrust@gmail.com](mailto:australianopenskifftrust@gmail.com) if you require further information.

### 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.



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@sydneyflying squadron.com.au](mailto:info@sydneyflying squadron.com.au)

### SETTING SAIL FOR THE GREAT WAR



STORIES OF THE SAILORS LISTED ON THE WW1 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-



Race 3 - The breeze backed-off slightly and much of the harbour traffic dissipated as Britannia pulled off another port hand start at the pin-end. Britannia was first to round the Taylor Bay mark with Scot close behind, then The Mistake, Aberdare, Australia IV and Tangalooma. Scot moved into the lead on the reach across to Shark Island, and then held the lead for the remainder of the race with Britannia finishing in 2nd (under ringtail), The Mistake, Aberdare, Australia IV and Tangalooma.



Overall - After the points were tallied up from the day's racing, Scot and Britannia finished at the top of the table on equal points, then with the countback applied, Scot becomes the winner on the day. Well done to Greg Kay, Jamie Watt and the rest of Team Scot. Britannia takes 2nd place, then The Mistake, Aberdare, Australia IV and Tangalooma on equal 5th (tied score/place), then Alruth and Yendys.

With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Russell, Roy, Peter, Adrienne, Chuck, Louise, Rob, Bill, Glen, Janis and Bill, post-race support from Ross, Coral and Margot, Angove Wines 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 next year - ie next race 13 January 2018.

## Results for Sat 16th December 2017

### 126th Anniversary Regatta - 3 Race Series

R/Day 11 Race 1	16-Dec-17		Hcp Start	Short Course	NE	12-16kts
Skiff	Skipper	Race Hcap	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H' cap Time
Scot	G.Kay	0:04	14:26:00	14:53:21	0:27:21	0:23:21
The Mistake	T.Stewart	0:03	14:27:00	14:53:56	0:26:56	0:23:56
Britannia	I.Smith	0:05	14:25:00	14:54:04	0:29:04	0:24:04
Aberdare	J. Winning	0:01	14:29:00	14:54:41	0:25:41	0:24:41
Alruth	R. Tickner	0:04	14:26:00	14:55:19	0:29:19	0:25:19
Australia IV	D. Swales	0:03	14:27:00	14:55:20	0:28:20	0:25:20
Tangalooma	P.Legrove	0:04	14:26:00	14:55:47	0:29:47	0:25:47
Yendys	B.Watson	0:00	14:30:00	DNF		

R/Day 11 Race 2	16-Dec-17		Hcp Start	Short Course	NE	12-16kts

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)



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@v7mail.com](mailto:ahssa@v7mail.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 -



Aberdare	J.Winning	3	4	3	10	4	1
Australia IV	D. Swales	2	2	2	6	5	9
Tangalooma	P.Legrove	2	2	2	6	5	11
Alruth	R. Tickner	2	1	0	3	7	13
Yendys	B.Watson	1	0	0	1	8	0
Australia							6
Myra Too							8

<b>Skiff</b>	<b>Season Point Score</b>	<b>Summer Point Score</b>	<b>Ringtail Point Score</b>
Aberdare	8	8	1
Alruth	5	5	0
Australia	0	0	0
Australia IV	8	8	0
Britannia	7	7	3
Myra Too	0	0	0
Scot	8	8	0
Tangalooma	4	4	0
The Mistake	8	8	0
Yendys	4	4	0

## **RACE REPORTS AND IMAGES FROM THE DECEMBER 2017 RACES**

Race 9: Heat One of the Summer and Season Point Scores - race abandoned due to conditions

Excerpt from the Race Report for 2 December:

Race 9 of the 2017-18 Season and Heat One of the Summer and Season Point Scores. Aberdare, Alruth and Australia IV were back in action after their excursion to the Sandbaggers Regatta in Annapolis, U.S.A. to join the regulars with 7 skiffs available for today's race, Scot having stood down due to insufficient crew. Conditions were overcast with a strong gradient NE breeze and the distinct possibility of a rain induced change from the west during the afternoon. Most skiffs rigged for the expected fresh conditions. A very low tide at launch time would make for a run-in tide during the race.

Australia IV did not start and headed back to the club before their start signal with a bowsprit issue. Britannia was first away off 15 mins, followed by Alruth (13), Tangalooma (11), The Mistake (9), Aberdare (3) and Yendys off scratch. The skiffs enjoyed fresh conditions as they worked their way down harbour to the Beashel Buoy, with the breeze prevailing from the NNE.

Britannia was first to round the Beashel Buoy for the run to Shark Island with the wind angle very square. Tangalooma was next to round followed by The Mistake, Alruth, Aberdare and Yendys.

The skiffs enjoyed a fast ride in fresh conditions down to the gybe mark, with all deciding to take spinnakers down before the mark, then continue under main and jib for the reach on the second run to Clark Island.

As the skiffs approached the Clark Island mark, light rain began to set-in and the breeze lighted off. Britannia was first to round the bottom mark for the beat up to Chowder Bay, followed by Tangalooma, The Mistake, Alruth, Aberdare and Yendys. The fleet had closed up at this stage with the makings for a close contest as the race progressed. As the skiffs made their way upwind the breeze began to lighten off, then move around to the left - ie NNE, Nth, NW.

While Britannia led the way mid-stream off Taylor Bay, Yendys was heading towards Bradley's Head and was the first skiff to experience the sudden change of conditions as the westerly front swept in. Unfortunately for Yendys they were in the wrong place at the wrong time to be confronted with yachts approaching under spinnaker from the opposite direction as conditions changed from sublime to chaotic. Despite their best efforts the crew of Yendys had limited options to sail clear and succumbed to the elements - fortunately, they were towed to Lady Martins Beach and enjoyed the welcome hospitality of the RPEYC's complimentary legendary tot of rum to ease their pain.

Britannia was caught out wide and exposed to the full brunt of the front and also succumbed to the elements, then towed to Nielsen Park beach. The remaining four skiffs battled their way towards the shelter of lee on the western shore. At this stage the remaining competitors were advised that the race had been abandoned by the Principal Race Officer. Tangalooma and The Mistake made their way to the beach at Chowder Bay where they un-rigged and eventually towed home. Alruth and Aberdare dropped their mainsails in Taylor Bay and sailed around in circles under jib. When conditions abated, Alruth re-hoisted their mainsail to sail home while Aberdare picked up a tow from the Rosman Ferry "Regal II" as it returned to the SFS. Everyone returned safely albeit a bit wet and cold. A big afternoon for the on-water support team.





The above photographs were taken by Craig Ligibel from Annapolis MD, USA.

Race 10: Race One of the Club Championship - winner Aberdare  
Excerpt from the Race Report for 9 December:

Race 10 of the 2017-18 Season and Heat Two of the Summer and Season Point Scores, Race One of the Club Championship. Conditions were ideal for sailors and supporters, with sunny skies, a light to moderate easterly breeze and the harbour at high water. 8 skiffs were on hand to contest this race, with most electing to use their no.1 big rigs, while Australia IV opted for a full size no.2 rig with 6 crew instead of the usual 7.

The race got underway from a scratch start off Kurraba Point on the no.2 Easterly course. Aberdare got away well from the middle of the line with Yendys and The Mistake well positioned further to windward. All skiffs tacked onto port at the first opportunity to make the most of the left hand lift off the Mosman shore. There was plenty of other sailing activity on the harbour to negotiate as the skiffs continued on port tack well down harbour until the breeze moved more to the right off Point Piper, for a starboard approach to northern side of Shark Island.

Aberdare was first to round at Shark Island for the square run back to Kurraba Point, followed by Yendys, Australia IV, The Mistake, Tangalooma, Scot, Alruth and Britannia. Aberdare set a ringtail for this run, and carried it most of the way even though the breeze moved around to the left on the last section of the run making for a tight approach to the bottom mark. Aberdare rounded the Kurraba mark with a good lead for the tight leg across to Clark Island, followed by Yendys, The Mistake, Australia IV, Scot, Tangalooma, Alruth and Britannia. The breeze had now freshened and was at the top end of the range for most big rigs, with Australia IV well served under 2nd rig, where they were able to pass The Mistake.

Aberdare led the way from Clark Island for the final beat up to Shark Island where they rounded with a good lead for the final run back to the finish. Yendys was comfortably placed in 2nd, with Australia IV and The Mistake having a good tussle for 3rd spot.

Aberdare set a smaller spinnaker for the final run that they carried all the way to the finish to win by a comfortable margin, followed by Yendys, Australia IV, The Mistake, Tangalooma, Scot, Alruth and Britannia. Australia IV was first on handicap from

Aberdare and The Mistake.





Race 11: Mark Foy Sprints - three one lap races round triangular course - winner Scot

See full race report in this newsletter.





## AROUND THE CLUB

Peter Legrove, skipper of Tangalooma, stunned us all by standing down as skipper at the age of a very youthful 82 so that he and Maureen can see more of Australia. (They usually return to the UK for our winters and the sailing recess.) While we can understand this, we are very sad for ourselves as we will miss their weekly presence on the water - Peter on Tangalooma and Maureen on the ferry.



The above photograph was taken on their wedding anniversary last year. Peter came to us from the Stone Sailing Club in Essex which also gave us the Tickners, Jerry and Robin.



The above photo from last Saturday shows Peter at the helm of Tangalooma, just where we expect to see him. He has helmed Tangalooma for pretty much all of this

century! Thank you for your great contribution to H18s' sailing, Peter. We look forward to seeing you and Maureen, we hope often, at the Club. All the best to you both for your next adventures.

We enjoyed our after-sailing Christmas get together, with the mellow sounds of Phil Moore on guitar. Phil forewent sailing on Britannia so that he could play for us all after the racing. Thank you so much, Phil.



And many thanks to Janis Hughes and Coral Taylor for organising the food last Saturday. Special mention also to Ross, our BBQ supremo, who cooked the sausages and onions for us all. Spot Ross in the photo below (helpful hint, the straw hat) as Greg Kay tells us how the mighty Scot won the day's racing!



This brings us to a great suggestion.

How about a New Year's resolution to become one of the SFS volunteers in 2018 and that this isn't a resolution to be broken as quickly as it's made!

To volunteer for sailing support... (you might have a NSW boat license required to drive a boat on your own, or the ability to tie the main sailing knots and throw a rope, good eyesight to scan for capsizes).

Or to volunteer for BBQ duty to give our tongs-master, Ross, a break from time to time...

Or to volunteer for raffle selling/spectator ferry support...

Or to volunteer to train as a race starter...

Or to volunteer in assisting document the Club's historical collection and trophies...

There are many ways you can support your sailing club. And at the same time make new friends and have fun as well!

If you are interested, please contact Jess Hayton, Sailing Secretary and Office Manager with your details and availability: [jess@sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au](mailto:jess@sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au)

This newsletter was written by Adrienne Jackson and Bob Chapman.

Photographs by Adrienne.

Formatted by Jessica Hayton.

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.