

SFS Race Report Saturday 17th February 2018

by Bob Chapman, 19 Feb 2018.

Race 18 of the 2017-18 Season, Heat 2 of the Autumn Point Score and the Annual Queen of the Harbour race. Eight skiffs were on hand to compete in this race with most carrying no.2 mainsails and no.3 jibs for a predicted moderate to fresh NE breeze, along with one or more female crew on board, vying for the opportunity of being crowned Queen of the Harbour. The crew of Australia IV wore pink (magenta?) crew jumpers for the occasion.



The race got underway on the club's no.1 NE course from a handicap start off Double Bay into a developing ENE breeze on a very busy harbour, with two regatta events underway, the usual pleasure craft out and about and a run-out tide, all contributing to some lumpy / bumpy conditions for the skiffs to negotiate on the long beat down harbour to the Beashel Buoy.



Britannia was first away off 13 mins, followed by Alruth, Scot and Tangalooma together off 11 mins, then Australia IV (9), the Mistake (6), Aberdare (1) and Yendys off scratch. The first beat was quite a challenge, along with the bumpy conditions, the breeze filled-in with most skiffs at the top end of the range for the gear they were carrying, with all crews busy keeping the water on the outside of the hull – well, it was the annual ladies race, it was never going to be a “cruisy” experience. Alruth managed the conditions well to round the Beashel Buoy with a good lead for the run to Shark Island, followed by Britannia, Scot, Tangalooma, The Mistake, Aberdare, Yendys and Australia IV (after an un-scheduled delay to deal with some water ingress issues).



The skiffs had a fast ride down to Shark Island with Alruth continuing to hold a good lead from Britannia and Scot. Tangalooma bowed-out after a terminal fill-up off Nielson Park (a difficult section

of water to negotiate in these conditions), Aberdare passed The Mistake, then came Yendys and Australia IV.



After gybing at Shark Island for the 2nd run, Alruth continued to lead at the bottom mark off Clark Island for the beat up to Chowder Bay, followed by Scot and Britannia, Aberdare, The Mistake, and eventually Australia IV, with Yendys out of play back at the gybe mark after the jolly red anchor kissed the briny. Australia IV withdrew at this stage with a rudder gudgeon issue and headed back to the SFS.

Alruth continued to show the way up the beat to Chowder Bay with Aberdare making up ground in the fresh conditions. Alruth was first to round at Chowder for the reach across to Shark Island, followed by Aberdare, Scot, The Mistake and Britannia. Aberdare enjoyed a particularly fast spinnaker ride across to Shark Island to sail into the lead while The Mistake (main and jib) moved into 3rd place.



Aberdare gybed first at Shark Island for the final run to the finish to win from Alruth, The Mistake, Scot and Britannia. Congratulations to all the ladies who participated in today's race and in particular to Ombeline Even from Aberdare, 2017-18 Queen of the Harbour.



With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Christophe, Roy, Peter, Adrienne, Stu, Chuck, Bill, and post-race to Ross, Coral, Margo and Angove Wines. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie next race – five races to go till the end of the season.

Results for Saturday 17th February 2018.

Race 18	17-Feb-18		Hcp Start	#1 Course	NE	16-24kts		
Skiff	Skipper	Race Hcap	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H'cap Time	New Hcap	Ring tail
Aberdare	J. Winning	0:01	14:29:00	15:48:51	1:19:51	1:18:51	0	
Alruth	R. Tickner	0:11	14:19:00	15:52:37	1:33:37	1:22:37	11	
The Mistake	T. Stewart	0:06	14:24:00	15:53:11	1:29:11	1:23:11	7	
Scot	G. Kay	0:11	14:19:00	15:56:13	1:37:13	1:26:13	12	
Britannia	I. Smith	0:13	14:17:00	16:00:46	1:43:46	1:30:46	14	
Yendys	H. Cudmore	0:00	14:30:00	DNF			0	
Australia IV	J. Tierney	0:09	14:21:00	DNF			9	
Tangalooma	N. Turbit	0:11	14:19:00	DNF			11	
Myra Too	P. Barnett	0:08	DNC				8	
Australia	I. Pretty	0:06	DNC				6	

Race Record Time?

Aberdare's race time was 1hr 19m 51s. In checking against the race records at hand for the past 7 seasons (ie since the 2011-12), this is the fastest time recorded for the NE Course in recent seasons; previous best was 1hr 21m 36s by Aberdare on 31 Oct 2015.

Skiff	Season Point Score	Autumn Point Score	Ringtail Point Score
Aberdare	27	11	3
Alruth	21	7	0
Australia	0	0	0
Australia IV	17	5	2
Britannia	18	4	5
Myra Too	0	0	0
Scot	22	6	0
Tangalooma	9	3	0
The Mistake	26	10	2
Yendys	10	3	3
