

SFS Race Report Sat 23rd February 2019

by Bob Chapman, 25 Feb 2019.

Photographs by Adrienne Jackson.

Race 16 of the 2018-19 Season and Heat 6 of the Summer Point Score. After a 2 week break from the usual club racing (one scheduled, one not – courtesy of SailGP) crews and supporters were back on hand for another day of skiff racing on Sydney Harbour. The weather was a bit on the damp side with a gusty wind from the south – ie some residue weather compliments of former tropical cyclone “Oma” that had been camped off the QLD south coast during the week.hmm, what if the SailGP had been scheduled a week later?

The good news for Squaddy H18s, no issues with idle pleasure craft on days like this. Eight skiffs were on hand for today’s race most electing to use small intermediate rigs, some with an extra reef in their mainsail. In fact there was a very good crew roll-up, no shortage of crew at all with some skiffs taking out an extra person on the day – wouldn’t have anything to do with the pre-arranged skiff/crew photo shoot? ...refer SFS Facebook page for the outcome, and good to see the volunteers involved.

The race got underway from a handicap start off Athol Bay on the no.4 South course into a puffy SSW breeze that was quite erratic at times – ie big breeze under the approaching rain cloud, then the rain, followed by a light air period before the cycle restarted. Five skiffs were listed to start off 15 min, with Scot missing their start by a minute, while Alruth was best away for the beat up to Clark Island followed by Britannia, Tangalooma then Top Weight.



Australia IV was next away off 8 mins with Yendys and Aberdare together off scratch. The breeze was quite fresh when the limit boats started but lightened off as the skiffs approached the island, with Tangalooma first to round for the square run to Chowder Bay followed by Alruth, Scot, Top Weight, Britannia, then a gap to Australia IV, then Yendys and Aberdare.



Tangalooma squared away to set their spinnaker on a starboard pole as did Alruth, Britannia and Top Weight, while Scot gybed for a port pole spinnaker set, as did Australia IV. Yendys and Aberdare started the run with starboard poles but gybed over at the first opportunity with the breeze filling-in under the next approaching rain cloud. Some mixed fortunes down this run, Tangalooma tore the head out of their spinnaker with the poles dropping into the water to then execute a pirouette turn around the submerged spinnaker poles. A spinnaker block attachment failed at the top of the gaff on Australia IV wherein the spinnaker and poles dropped into the water bringing them to an abrupt halt ending in a terminal fill-up. Meanwhile Scot sailed into the lead while Aberdare moved ahead of Yendys. Scot was first to round at Chowder for the beat up to Shark Island followed by Alruth, Top Weight, Tangalooma, Britannia, Aberdare and Yendys.



The beat up to Shark Island provided more challenges with the breeze from the SSW early in the leg then bending back to the south on approach to Rose Bay. Scot was first to round at Shark for the long main & jib lead back to Kurraba followed by Alruth, Top Weight, Britannia, Tangalooma, Yendys and Aberdare. No real changes on this leg, with Scot first to the mark at Kurraba for the beat up to Clark Island.



Unfortunately, Scot hit the mark during the rounding and during the execution of a penalty turn was passed by Alruth and Top Weight to drop back to 3rd place, followed by Tangalooma, Britannia, Yendys and Aberdare.



With the breeze in SSW, the skiffs were able to lay up to Clark Island in one leg with no passing lanes. Alruth was first to round the island with a handy lead and after a good spinnaker set went on to take the gun from Top Weight, Scot, Yendys, Aberdare, Britannia and Tangalooma. All skiffs finished within 6 mins of each other – as per the Mark Foy handbook. Well done to Jerry and the team on Alruth for their first win this season and quite possibly Jerry's first win as skipper.



With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Mandy, Roy, Russell, Peter, Stuart, Chuck and Bill, with Ross on the BBQ, along with support from Angove Wines. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie next week.

Results for Saturday 23rd February.

Race 16	23-Feb-19		Hcp Start	#4 Course	SSW	10-20kts		
Skiff	Skipper	Race Hcap	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H'cap Time	New Hcap	Ring tail
Alruth	J. Tickner	0:15	14:15:00	15:50:18	1:35:18	1:20:18	13	
Top Weight	A. Robertson	0:15	14:15:00	15:51:51	1:36:51	1:21:51	14	
Scot	J. Watt	0:15	14:15:00	15:53:41	1:38:41	1:23:41	15	
Yendys	H. Cudmore	0:00	14:30:00	15:54:03	1:24:03	1:24:03	0	
Aberdare	J. Winning	0:00	14:30:00	15:54:19	1:24:19	1:24:19	0	
Britannia	I. Smith	0:15	14:15:00	15:55:22	1:40:22	1:25:22	15	
Tangalooma	J. Lewis	0:15	14:15:00	15:55:45	1:40:45	1:25:45	15	
Australia IV	T. Stewart	0:08	14:22:00	DNF			8	
Myra Too		0:07	DNC				7	
The Mistake		0:07	DNC				7	
Australia		0:06	DNC				6	

Skiff	Season Point Score	Summer Point Score	Ringtail Point Score
Aberdare	52	18	6
Alruth	31	16	1
Australia	0	0	0
Australia IV	41	15	3
Britannia	33	15	12
Myra Too	0	0	0
Scot	35	16	0
Tangalooma	24	10	0
The Mistake	0	0	1
Top Weight	40	19	1
Yendys	25	12	3
