

SFS Race Report Sat 23rd March 2019

by Bob Chapman, 25 Mar 2019.

Photographs by Adrienne Jackson.

Race 20 of the 2018-19 Season and Heat 4 of the Autumn Point Score. Warm and humid conditions with a moderate gradient breeze expected early afternoon from the ENE along with the possibility of late afternoon thunderstorm activity. The breeze had developed by midday with most skiffs electing to use full size no.2 rigs with a couple opting for no.1 rig – admittedly some skiffs were light on for crew numbers. In addition, we had some guest skippers making their debut appearance on the helm of an historic 18, namely Katie Love from California on Aberdare and Chris Buckland from Lake Macquarie on Yendys.

The race got underway from a handicap start off Double Bay on the no.1 NE course into a moderate NE breeze and run-out tide. Ideal conditions to be out on the harbour with plenty of on-water activity and a large fleet of Lasers racing out of Double Bay. Limit skiffs Alruth, Britannia and Top Weight got away to a close start, while Tangalooma missed their start by several minutes after lapsing into “cruise” mode in Double Bay. Scot was next skiff away off 14 mins, then Australia IV (9), Aberdare (4) and Yendys off scratch. The skiffs enjoyed a tide-assisted beat down harbour to the Beashel Buoy, where Scot was first to round for the run to Shark Island followed by Top Weight, Britannia, Alruth, Australia IV, Tangalooma, Aberdare and Yendys.



The lead group of skiffs enjoyed close running down to the gybe mark at Shark Island where Top Weight was first to gybe for the run to Clark Island (albeit with some spinnaker pole issues) followed by Scot, Britannia, Alruth, Australia IV, Tangalooma, Aberdare and Yendys (after setting a ringtail on the first run). More close running down to the bottom mark where Scot was first to round for the beat to Chowder Bay followed by Top Weight, Australia IV, Alruth, Britannia, Aberdare, Tangalooma and Yendys. The wind was beginning to lighten off at this stage with sunny skies replaced by overcast gloom as the effects of a weather system from the west moved towards the city.



A close race ensued up the beat amongst the lead group of Top Weight, Scot and Australia IV. Alruth dropped out of the picture after bad tack in Taylor Bay where a lee-cloth malfunction resulted in a terminal fill-up, while Aberdare moved up to 4th place and Yendys made a big gain after working the eastern side.



Top Weight was first to round at Chowder for the tight reach to Shark Island closely followed by Australia IV and Scot, then a gap to Aberdare and Britannia, then Yendys and Tangalooma. Australia IV moved into the lead on the reach while Aberdare made up time on the leaders.



Australia IV was first to gybe at Shark Island for the run to the finish with Top Weight chasing hard, while Aberdare moved into 3rd place after the gybe and sailed a low/deep course towards the finish to make up time on the 2 leaders now on a higher course.

The pressure was on and ringtails were deployed. Australia IV went on to take the gun by 20 secs from Aberdare, with just 4 secs to Top Weight in 3rd, followed by Scot, Yendys, Britannia and Tangalooma.



With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Jenny, Roy, Russell, Peter, Stu, Chuck and Bill, Rob and Adrienne on the Rosman ferry, with Ross and Margaret on the BBQ, Louise on the raffle, along with support from Angove Wines. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie next week.

Just 3 more weeks of racing scheduled as per the following:

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|-----|----------|---|
| Sat | 30 March | Autumn Series Heat 5 |
| Sat | 6 April | Autumn Series Heat 6 and Club Championship Heat 3 |
| Sat | 13 April | Autumn Series Heat 7 and Sprint Races |

Results for Saturday 23rd March.

| Race 20 | 23-Mar-19 | | Hcp Start | #1 Course | NE | 5-15kts | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Skiff | Skipper | Race Hcap | Start Time | Finish Time | Race Time | H'cap Time | New Hcap | Ring tail |
| Australia IV | T. Stewart | 0:09 | 14:21:00 | 15:54:54 | 1:33:54 | 1:24:54 | 7 | 1 |
| Aberdare | K. Love | 0:04 | 14:26:00 | 15:55:16 | 1:29:16 | 1:25:16 | 3 | 1 |
| Top Weight | A. Robertson | 0:15 | 14:15:00 | 15:55:20 | 1:40:20 | 1:25:20 | 15 | |
| Scot | J. Watt | 0:14 | 14:16:00 | 15:56:36 | 1:40:36 | 1:26:36 | 14 | |
| Yendys | C. Buckland | 0:00 | 14:30:00 | 15:56:51 | 1:26:51 | 1:26:51 | 0 | 2 |
| Britannia | I. Smith | 0:15 | 14:15:00 | 15:59:06 | 1:44:06 | 1:29:06 | 15 | 1 |
| Tangalooma | J. Lewis | 0:15 | 14:15:00 | 16:01:06 | 1:46:06 | 1:31:06 | 15 | |
| Alruth | J. Tickner | 0:15 | 14:15:00 | DNF | | | 15 | |
| The Mistake | | 0:09 | DNC | | | | 9 | |
| Myra Too | | 0:07 | DNC | | | | 7 | |
| Australia | | 0:06 | DNC | | | | 6 | |

| Skiff | Season Point Score | Autumn Point Score | Ringtail Point Score |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Aberdare | 67 | 15 | 10 |
| Alruth | 38 | 7 | 1 |
| Australia | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Australia IV | 60 | 19 | 8 |
| Britannia | 43 | 10 | 16 |
| Myra Too | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scot | 48 | 13 | 0 |
| Tangalooma | 36 | 12 | 0 |
| The Mistake | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Top Weight | 50 | 10 | 1 |
| Yendys | 42 | 17 | 10 |
