

SFS Race Report Sat 29th February 2020

by Bob Chapman, 2 Mar 2020.

Race 19 of the 2019-20 Season and Race Two of the Autumn Point Score was planned for Saturday 29th February, but the SailGP mob decided to run an event on the 28th and 29th Feb effectively taking over the harbour and the SFS was left with little option but to cancel their planned club race on the day. The good news, the Rosman ferry had already been booked by the SFS, so the SFS punters were able to make the most of the situation and enjoy the afternoon on the harbour watching the SailGP. The weather was ideal, so no doubt someone may be able to provide a report of their day out?

The SailGP event is further evidence of the legacy of Mark Foy when he founded the SFS back in 1891, on 2 counts.

1. It was Foy's idea to break away from the conventional racing format used back then where sailing races would start somewhere, sail off to somewhere else and then return, with just an obscure number on the sail to identify a yacht/skiff and limited options for spectators to follow the action. Foy introduced the 3 race, short course format for 18 foot skiffs with colourful sail insignias to identify competitors, raced within a confined section of the harbour in close proximity to established vantage points to enable spectators to view the action from start to finish, either from the shore, other water craft or from a dedicated spectator ferry.
2. Another innovation by Foy was the building of a "dual hulled boat" (in later terminology known as a catamaran). Foy's dual hulled boat was built in 1894 by Charlie Messenger at Double Bay and raced under the name of Flying Fish, a huge development for sailing at the time.

SailGP uses a 3 race, short course format, on a dedicated section of harbour to maximize spectator interest, using 50ft foiling catamarans (or 50ft foiling dual hulled boats?), each carrying distinct colourful branding. Any chance in 130 yrs time someone will build and sail a replica of these craft?

Britannia goes to Paynesville.

Meanwhile, down on the Gippsland Lakes, Vic, another significant event was underway, the annual Paynesville Classic Boat Rally. Ian Smith, his intrepid crew and dedicated group of followers made the not insubstantial road trip in taking Britannia to Paynesville to fly the flag (Britannia's Red Duster) and ringtail to participate in this unique event. Maximum crowd interest I suspect.

photos extracted from Ian & Tricia Smith's video footage of Britannia at Paynesville.





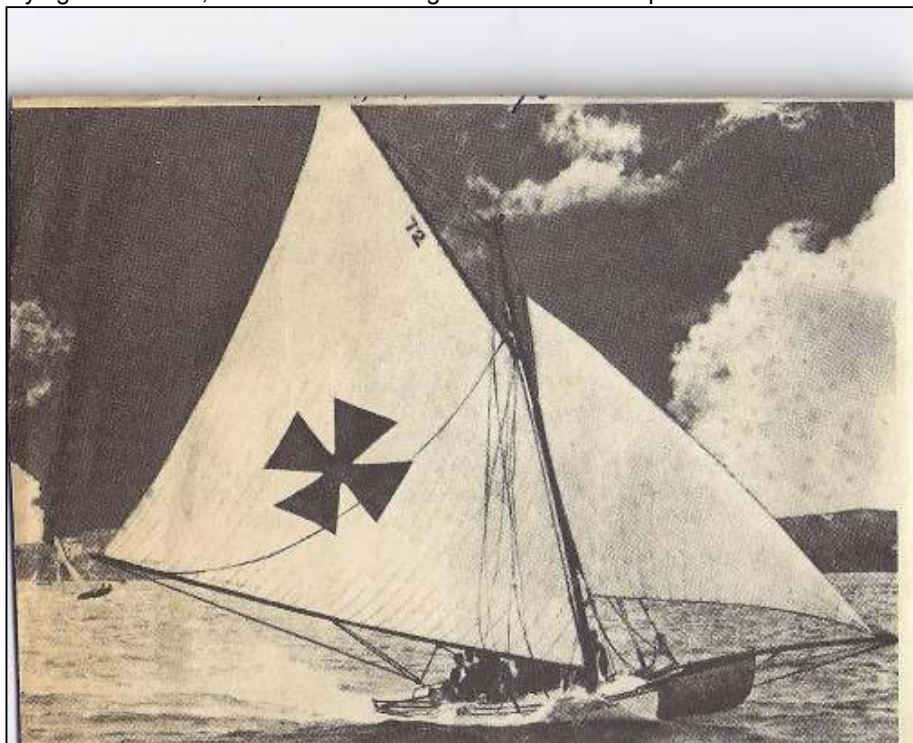
Foy's Flying Fish, 1894.
Newspaper item sourced via TROVE:

1. [No title](#)

Clarence and Richmond Examiner (Grafton, NSW : 1889 - 1915) Tuesday 7 August 1894 p 8 Article

LAUNCH OF THE FLYING FISH. - Messenger's shed, in Double Bay, was the scene of the launch of a novel sailing yacht, the little vessel having been designed by and built to the order of Mr. Mark Foy, who has succeeded in introducing to Port Jackson a 24ft. sailing craft which it is anticipated will attain a maximum racing speed of from 15 to 20 miles an hour. The Flying Fish, the name of the new racer, consists of two distinct hulls of boats, each 24ft. in length, 2ft. 3in. beam, and 2ft. 9in. extreme depth. These boats, of the most perfect design, on the whaleboat principle and carvel cedar planking, are bridged together with strong beams and stays, and give an extreme beam of 10ft. 6in. The draught of water is from 10in. to 12in., with sails, spars, crew and the two center board plates - one in each boat - on board. There are two rudders, worked by lines and tiller. She is perfectly safe, as she cannot capsize and cannot sink.

Flying Fish – note, sail-no and sail insignia in order to compete in various club events.



The spectator ferry is looking for regular patronage with online booking available from the club website. <https://www.sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au/shop/> Please tell your friends.
