

SFS Race Report Sat 30th January 2021

by Bob Chapman, 1 Feb 2021.

Race 14 of the 2020-21 Season and Race Two of the Australian Championship. Warm and humid conditions in the boat park along with the occasional shower of misty rain, and nine skiffs on hand for the day's racing – welcome back Alruth. Not much wind on the harbour at midday, particularly on the Kirribilli side, but with some indication an east / nor-east wind would develop as the afternoon progressed. Once again, rig choices were split between full-size no.2 rig and big rig, this time about 50/50 – all depends on how much faith you put in what is forecast and/or what you observe.

The race got underway, on the second attempt after a general recall, from a scratch start off Double Bay on the no.1 NE course into a 10-12 kt NE breeze and run-out tide, with the pin-end favoured. By race time the sky had begun to clear, and apart from sharing the waterway with the usual club racing fleets, the skiffs would get a reprieve from the recent "inundation" of boat wash issues created by the frivolous actions of poorly managed pleasure craft.

Yendys got the best of the start just squeezing past the pin-end mark with The Mistake on their hip, then Top Weight, Australia IV and Alruth. Aberdare may have had an issue with another craft off Point Piper shortly after the start. The breeze began to fill-in as the skiffs sailed down harbour to the Beashel Buoy, with the run-out tide providing a big assist. Yendys soon built a comfortable lead from The Mistake, with these two skiffs sailing down the middle of the harbour and making a long port hand leg towards Nielsen Park, while the skiffs that worked the western shore appeared to pick-up a favourable left-hand shifts and better pressure. When the lead group of skiffs crossed tacks off Georges Head, Yendys still held the lead with Australia IV moving into 2nd, ahead of The Mistake with Alruth close at hand.

Yendys was first to round the Beashel Buoy for the square run to Shark Island, almost 2 mins ahead of Australia IV, then The Mistake, Alruth, Top Weight, Scot, Tangalooma, Britannia and Aberdare. The skiffs enjoyed good wind pressure down the run along with a large fleet of yachts also running downwind in the same section of the harbour. Yendys maintained their lead to gybe first at Shark Island for the run to Clark Island.

Yendys was first to round at Clark Island, for the beat up to Chowder Bay, with a 3 min lead from Australia IV and The Mistake who rounded side by side, followed by Top Weight, Alruth, Scot, Tangalooma, Britannia and Aberdare. The breeze had filled-in nicely for the final lap, right on the cross-over wind strength for no.1 and no.2 rigs, with the skiffs using no.2 rig very comfortable and sailing fast upwind.

Yendys maintained their 3 min lead to round Chowder first for the run to Shark Island followed by Australia IV, The Mistake, Alruth, Top Weight, Scot, etc. Yendys set a peak-head spinnaker for this leg, as did The Mistake (when they eventually got it sorted out), while Australia IV went main & jib. Yendys gybed first at Shark Island for the run to the finish, setting a ringtail in the process. The Mistake was next to round Shark Island, also setting a ringtail, followed by Australia IV.

Yendys enjoyed a fast ride to the finish to take the gun by 4 mins from The Mistake, then Australia IV (under ringtail), Alruth, Top Weight (ringtail), Scot, Tangalooma, Britannia and Aberdare. The handicap was won by Alruth from Top Weight and Australia IV.

With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Robert, Peter, Reece, Chuck and Bentley; Robin and Capt. Rob on the Regal, along with COVID Marshalls Tomoko and Nicki. With mark rounding details and on-water observations provided by Peter Notley and Bentley. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie next week.



Yendys powers along to the finish (courtesy Tricia Smith)

Results for Sat 30th January 2021.

Race 14	30-Jan-21		Scr Start	NE Course	NE	10-15kts					
Skiff	Skipper	Race Hcap	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H'cap Time	New Hcap	Ring tail	AHSSA Rating	Rating C'Time	Rating Place
Yendys	J. Porebski	0:00	14:40:00	16:09:36	1:29:36	1:29:36	0	1	0:02:30	1:27:06	1
The Mistake	J. Winning	0:04	14:40:00	16:13:33	1:33:33	1:29:33	4	1	0:03:30	1:30:03	2
Australia IV	T. Stewart	0:09	14:40:00	16:15:24	1:35:24	1:26:24	9	1	0:01:30	1:33:54	4
Alruth	M. Carter	0:15	14:40:00	16:19:32	1:39:32	1:24:32	13		0:03:00	1:36:32	5
Top Weight	A. Robertson	0:15	14:40:00	16:20:18	1:40:18	1:25:18	14	1	0:06:30	1:33:48	3
Scot	J. Watt	0:15	14:40:00	16:23:49	1:43:49	1:28:49	15		0:05:00	1:38:49	6
Tangalooma	N. Turbit	0:15	14:40:00	16:25:59	1:45:59	1:30:59	15		0:05:00	1:40:59	8
Britannia	I. Smith	0:15	14:40:00	16:26:46	1:46:46	1:31:46	15		0:07:00	1:39:46	7
Aberdare	J. Tickner	0:15	14:40:00	16:29:49	1:49:49	1:34:49	15		0:00:00	1:49:49	9
Myra Too		0:07	DNC				7				
Australia		0:06	DNC				6				

Skiff	Australian C'Ship Overall Pts	Australian C'Ship Hcp Pts	Ringtail Point Score
Aberdare	21	24	0
Alruth	17	13	0
Australia	24	24	0
Australia IV	7	7	13
Britannia	14	15	8
Myra Too	24	24	0
Scot	10	6	0
Tangalooma	14	13	0
The Mistake	4	8	10
Top Weight	8	7	2
Yendys	2	7	10

Note, low-points scoring system for Australian Championship, as per placing on AHSSA Rating corrected time.
