

SFS Race Report Sat 12th February 2022

by Bob Chapman, 14 Feb 2022.

Race 14 of the 2021-22 Season, the Port Jackson Championship, Race Two of the Club Championship and Race Six of the Summer Point Score. From the weather forecast and early indications it appeared today's race would be sailed in a fresh SE breeze. The seven skiffs on hand rigged accordingly with some opting for a smaller rig based on reduced crew numbers. However, by the time the skiffs began to launch and leave Careening Cove the weather situation took a turn for the worst with the prevailing SE breeze disappearing when a large rain system converged on the city and across to the Kirribilli shore. Fortunately the rain cleared and the gradient breeze returned from the East / SE about 10 minutes before start time with limited impact to the race start.

The race got underway from a scratch start off Robinson's Point on the no.3 SE Course into a moderate ESE breeze and the early stage of a run-in tide. The late wind change provided a bias that favoured the pin-end of the line with The Mistake best away near the pin and Scot and Britannia starting well from the middle of the line. The Mistake and Britannia were first to tack onto port and enjoy the benefit of the favoured port tack lay up to Clark Island, followed soon after by the remainder of the skiffs.



Skiffs and support craft soon after the race start.

Courtesy Adrienne Jackson.



Skiffs on approach to Clark Island.

Courtesy Wayne & Michael on the Killo.

The Mistake was first to round Clark Island for the tight reach to Taylor Bay followed by Australia IV, Scot, Britannia, Tangalooma, Top Weight and Aberdare. Due to the tight reaching angle and puffy breeze no spinnakers were set by the lead skiffs, opting to go mainsail & jib only. The run was a bit of a procession but some close sailing just the same with Britannia moving into 3rd place ahead of Scot.



Scot and Britannia about to round at Clark Island.

Courtesy Wayne & Michael on the Killo.

The Mistake was first to round at Taylor Bay for the beat up to Shark Island followed by Australia IV, Britannia, Scot, Tangalooma, Top Weight and Aberdare. It was evident by this stage that the better breeze was on the eastern side of the harbour with the western shore adversely affected by the localized rain cell that hung about the city and North Sydney. The wind was ESE with the skiffs focused on exiting Taylor Bay to get across to the better breeze on the eastern shore for their approach to Rose Bay where the breeze was more consistent and well established.



Tangalooma, Scot and Top Weight at Taylor Bay mark. Courtesy Wayne & Michael on the Killo.

The Mistake was first to round Shark Island for the square run back to Kurraba, setting a large running spinnaker and ringtail, followed by Australia IV (ringtail), Scot, Britannia (ringtail), Tangalooma, Top Weight and Aberdare. Britannia under ringtail was able to overhaul and pass Scot. The skiffs enjoyed good running conditions until they closed the western side of the harbour on approach to Robinsons Point where the ESE breeze faded and a very light localized SW breeze took over. The Mistake was forced to drop their spinnaker well short of the Kurraba mark and even when close-hauled, unable to lay the mark, eventually having to make a tack to effect a rounding. Similar story for the skiffs that followed, with some able to read the situation ahead and alter course accordingly to lay the mark, while the breeze had filled-in when the later skiffs had to round.



The Mistake after rounding Shark Island. Courtesy Wayne & Michael on the Killo.

The Mistake was first to round at Kurraba and immediately lay up on starboard tack towards Clark Island. Whilst there was no change in the positions for the skiffs that followed the racing was still tight and well contested. All skiffs were able to lay-up to Clark Island in one long leg on starboard tack.

The Mistake was first to round Clark Island for the run to the finish at Kurraba with the breeze SSW, but they resisted in setting a spinnaker and sailed mainsail & jib with sprung sheets. Several of the

following skiffs set spinnakers and ringtails, but they were not up for long (or setting that well) as the vagaries of the unstable breeze continued to unfold. The Mistake was able to hold course towards the finish line until the final section of the leg when the breeze faded away and just trickles of breeze emerged from west, with The Mistake eventually putting in a couple of tacks to cross the finish line. After a close tussle with Britannia early on the final leg Australia IV crossed in 2nd place followed by Britannia, a gap to Tangalooma, a close finish between Aberdare and Scot, then Top Weight. The handicap event was won by Britannia from Australia IV, The Mistake, Tangalooma, Aberdare, Scot and Top Weight.

With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Russell, Chuck, Robert, Glen and Michael, along with FM Rob and team on WB 379, COVID Marshall Nicki, crew sign-in by Tomoko, Fiona on the raffle, with Woody and Ombeline from The Mistake on the B-B-Q. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie next week – for the annual Queen of the Harbour Race.



Barley and the Yellow RIB at Clark Island.

Courtesy Wayne & Michael on the Killo.

Results for Sat 12th February 2022.

Race 14	12-Feb-22	Scr Start	SE Course	ESE-SW	5-16 kts						
Skiff	Skipper	Race Hcap	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H'cap Time	New Hcap	Ring tail	AHSSA Rating	Rating C'Time	Rating Place
The Mistake	J. Winning	0:00	14:30:00	16:13:23	1:43:23	1:43:23	0	1	0:01:30	1:41:53	1
Australia IV	T. Stewart	0:08	14:30:00	16:19:34	1:49:34	1:41:34	7	2	0:01:30	1:48:04	3
Britannia	I. Smith	0:14	14:30:00	16:20:44	1:50:44	1:36:44	12	2	0:08:30	1:42:14	2
Tangalooma	N. Turbit	0:13	14:30:00	16:28:42	1:58:42	1:45:42	13		0:05:00	1:53:42	4
Aberdare	J. Tickner	0:15	14:30:00	16:35:30	2:05:30	1:50:30	15		0:00:00	2:05:30	6
Scot	J. Watt	0:10	14:30:00	16:37:02	2:07:02	1:57:02	10		0:05:00	2:02:02	5
Top Weight	A. Robertson	0:14	14:30:00	16:42:31	2:12:31	1:58:31	14		0:05:00	2:07:31	7
Yendys		0:00	DNC				0				
Alruth		0:15	DNC				15				
Australia		0:06	DNC				6				
Myra Too		0:07	DNC				7				

Skiff	Season Point Score	Summer Point Score	Ringtail Point Score
Aberdare	24	12	
Alruth	0	0	
Australia	0	0	
Australia IV	35	18	6
Britannia	19	14	6
Myra Too	0	0	

Scot	35	20	
Tangalooma	21	14	
The Mistake	38	14	4
Top Weight	7	2	2
Yendys	14	1	5
