

SFS Race Report Sat 11th February 2023

by Bob Chapman, 13 Feb 2023.

Race 14 of the 2022-23 Season, the Port Jackson Championship, Race 2 of the Club Championship and Heat One of the Autumn Point Score. We had 6 skiffs on hand to prepare for today's race, with Britannia absent due to commitments at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart. Typical hot summer conditions in the boat park with the expectation of a fresh nor'easter for the afternoon's race. All skiffs rigged for the expected conditions with no.3 rig the popular choice.

The race got underway from a scratch start off Double Bay on the no.1 NE course into a fresh nor'easter of around 18 kts and run-out tide. The start was well contested with Yendys nearest the pin and The Mistake just to windward, both getting off the line in clear air. The breeze was steady, with plenty of water traffic and boat wash to negotiate, making for some challenging sailing as the skiffs worked down to the Beashel Buoy. Alruth was well placed on this leg, crossing tacks with The Mistake on occasions, with Yendys just ahead in the lead.



View from the Start Boat.

Courtesy Wayne.

Yendys was first to round the Beashel Buoy for the square run to Shark Island followed closely by The Mistake then Alruth, Australia, Tangalooma and Australia IV. The angle for the run was very square and the chop had built up with the run-out tide. Yendys elected to put in a turn and run downwind on starboard gybe without a spinnaker, while The Mistake set a peak-header on a port pole that they strapped-in hard to hold course down to the mark, with the following skiffs running with no spinnaker.

The Mistake enjoyed a fast downwind ride to sail into the lead at Shark Island where they dropped the spinnaker, to do a round turn and run under main and jib to Clark Island. Yendys was next skiff to round at Shark followed by Alruth, Australia, Australia IV and Tangalooma. No spinnakers down this run, even though the angle was free, caution prevailed with plenty of wind and waves to negotiate at the bottom mark. The Mistake was first to round at Clark Island for the beat up to Chowder with no change in positions for the skiffs that followed. The breeze had filled-in at this stage giving the skiffs a solid beat upwind. Tangalooma suffered a broken gaff halfway up this leg and was forced to retire.

The Mistake was first to round at Chowder, eventually to set a small spinnaker for the free run to Shark Island. Yendys was next to round and set a small spinnaker while the skiffs that followed ran under main and jib. The Mistake dropped their spinnaker at the Shark Island mark and after rounding re-set the small spinnaker for the run to the finish to win by 3½ minutes from Yendys then a gap to Alruth, Australia IV and Australia. After crossing the finish line, Alruth had a swim whilst taking down their spinnaker. The skiffs encountered very fresh conditions for the sail back across the harbour from Clark Island to round off a challenging day.

With thanks to our on-water support team of Barley, Wendy, Russell, Bob, Chuck and Bronty, Rob on WB 379, Ross on the B-B-Q and Anna on the raffle. We look forward to seeing you down at the Squaddie next race, on the 25th of February – no racing next week, the 18th, due to the Sail GP event.

Results for Sat 11th February 2023.

Race 14	11-Feb-23		Scr Start	NE Course	NE	18-22 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	0:03	14:30:00	16:01:24	1:31:24	1:28:24	1		0:00:00	1:31:24	1
Yendys	A. Hay	0:00	14:30:00	16:05:02	1:35:02	1:35:02	0		0:00:00	1:35:02	2
Alruth	A. Robertson	0:10	14:30:00	16:09:02	1:39:02	1:29:02	9		0:03:00	1:36:02	3
Australia IV	T. Stewart	0:08	14:30:00	16:15:35	1:45:35	1:37:35	8		0:00:00	1:45:35	5
Australia	M. Flanagan	0:11	14:30:00	16:17:32	1:47:32	1:36:32	11		0:03:00	1:44:32	4
Tangalooma	N. Turbit	0:15	14:30:00	DNF			15				
Britannia	I. Smith	0:17	14:30:00	DNC / AVG			17				
Top Weight		0:11	DNC				11				
Scot		0:15	DNC				15				
Aberdare		0:14	DNC				14				
Myra Too		0:07	DNC				7				

Skiff	Season Point Score	Autumn Point Score	Ringtail Point Score	F/Time Point Score
Aberdare	0	0	0	0
Alruth	36	5	1	28
Australia	26	3	0	28
Australia IV	55	2	7	52
Britannia	38*	2*	9	29*
Myra Too	0	0	0	0
Scot	18	0	0	16
Tangalooma	43	1	0	36
The Mistake	46	6	5	57
Top Weight	1	0	0	1
Yendys	48	4	5	64

Note, * denotes average points applied.
