

Ernst & Young International Flying Fifteen National Championships Canberra, 1-10 January 1991

Victorians James Thomson and Robert van Veenendall convincingly won the Ernst & Young International Flying Fifteen National Championships sailed on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin from 1 to 10 January last.

As expected, the series was sailed in light to medium wind conditions with breezes in all races varying between 1 and 15 knots. The sizeable number of spectators on the lake shores were however treated to a spectacular demonstration of Flying Fifteen performance when a line squall of 30 knots plus hit the fleet in the last race. Two keels were shown to the armchair experts but the rest of the 29-strong fleet took off in clouds of spray, showing what has made the class so popular among small keelboat sailors over a period of many years.

Big gains and losses were made in the challenging inland sailing conditions with variable wind strength and direction. One top skipper said:

"At home I can relax once I get to the front of the fleet, but in Canberra I have to concentrate for the whole race. Changing conditions meant I could be involved in three or four races in one heat!"

Boats from all Australian fleets were represented in the series. Also, popular Ian Cleaver (Scotland) and veteran Derek Walbourn (England) joined in the competition.

THE RACING

Tuffa Gruffa sailed by James Thomson and Robert van Veenendall won the championships to the extent that they need not have sailed the last race. The high performing Queensland boat *Corrangattack* sailed by Ashley Smith and Phil Will repeated the performance they achieved in the 1990 Brisbane Nationals to come second, with the third place getter in the 1990 Worlds, Ian Cleaver, coming third.

Canberra sailors filled the first two places in the handicap result with Ian Hawke (*Windsong*) first and John Hosking (*State of the Ark*) second. Victorian sailor Ian Whitehead in *Isn't it Amazing* was third.

Race 1 was a race of fluctuating fortunes. *Tuffa Gruffa* led from *Fanfare* (Geoff Totterdell, WA) and *Corrangattack* for much of the race but tactical errors allowed Canberra boat *Rustler* (Peter Russell) in to win by a minute. This race underscored the fact that in lake racing, you never say die until the race is won. *Rustler* had started about two minutes later after a rules infringement.

Race 2 was a close contest in gusty wind conditions with a number of boats choosing the wrong side of the strategically placed Spinnaker Island. *Tuffa Gruffa* battled with *Corrangattack* and *White Magic 2* (Mark Bulka, Vic) and ultimately won by three boat lengths from the Queensland boat with *Fanfare* third.

Three boats got away from the fleet in the light to medium conditions of Race 3. After a close race *Rustler* started to look very good with a 14-second win from *Cunning Stunt* and the Victorian boat *Travelling Sailsman* sailed by John Hawkins.

Race 4 was sailed in stronger breezes, enabling *Tuffa Gruffa* and *Cunning Stunt* to show their paces, filling first and second places respectively with *Corrangattack* further back in third place.

Ability to pick wind shifts in the 1 to 15 knot winds of Race 5 showed Ian Cleaver (*Cunning Stunt*) hitting top gear with a win of more than a minute over *Soggy Sox* (Ron Walker, Qld) who had a spectacular last leg, followed by the new ubiquitous *Tuffa Gruffa* in third place.

Race 2 turned out to be the deciding race for *Tuffa Gruffa*. James Thomson handled the predominantly

light conditions with the elan to lead the fleet over the line. The second and third place getters, *White Magic* and *Corrangattack* were well behind. This result secured the series for Thomson.

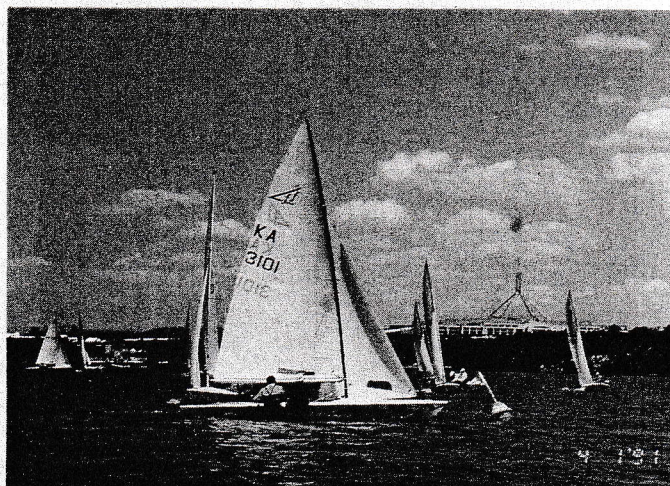
The main interest in Race 7 was the minor placings which were wide open. *Tuffa Gruffa* sailed fast and loose in the 10-15 knot winds livened up with a 30-knot plus line squall to win. The race for second place was decided after seom aggressive tactics, with *Corrangattack* taking the honours for second place in an almost photo finish from *Cunning Stunt*.

1—*Tuffa Gruffa* (J. Thomson, Vic) 4-1-4-1-3-1-1, 13.7; 2—*Corrangattack* (A. Smith, Qld) 3-2-9-3-5-3-4, 38.1; 3—*Cunning Stunt* (I. Cleaver, UK) 6-7-2-2-1-6-5, 39.4; 4—*Travelling Sailsman* (J. Hawkins, Vic) 13-5-3-5-4-10-3, 55.4; 5—*Fanfare* (G. Totterdell, WA) 2-3-12-12-8-8-2, 57.0; 6—*Rustler* (P. Russell, ACT) 1-11-1-13-9-13-8, 65; 7—*White Magic 2* (M. Bulka, Vic) 12-4-8-7-6-2-disq, 67.7; 8—*Gunnadoo* (D. Meldrum, Vic) 7-8-5-10-10-4-6, 72.7; 9—*Soggy Sox* (R. Walker, Qld) 20-6-10-4-2-12-12, 74.7; 10—*Rolling Stone* (I. Kalnins, ACT) 5-17-7-11-14-5-11, 87.



Rustler, Peter and Phillip Russell of ACT winner of two heats, placing 6th overall.

CHAMPIONSHIPS



TOP LEFT: Prince Phillip Dragons off Royal Brighton YC (Leisa Alabaster picture).

RIGHT: Ashley Smith and Phil Will about to round the windward mark in sight of the politicians, Flying 15 nationals, Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra.

International Flying Fifteen

Victorians James Thomson and Robert van Veenendall convincingly won the Ernst & Young International Flying Fifteen national championship sailed on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin.

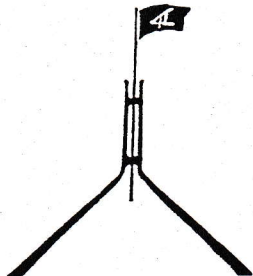
The series was sailed in light to medium winds that varied from one to 15 knots. The sizeable number of spectators that lined the shores of the lake, however, were treated to a "flying" Flying Fifteen spectacle in the final race when a 30 line squall hit the fleet. As a result two keels were shown to the audience, while the rest of the 29-boat fleet took off in clouds of spray.

Boats from all Australian fleets were represented at the regatta which also attracted international competitors in Scotland's Ian Cleaver and England's Derek Walbourn.

Tuffa Gruffa, sailed by Thomson and van Veenendall, won the title without needing to sail the last race. Top performing Queensland entry *Corangattack*, sailed by Ashley Smith and Phil Will, repeated the performance achieved at the 1990 Brisbane nationals to come second. Third place getter at the 1990 Worlds, Ian Cleaver, finished third. Canberra sailors filled the first two places in handicap results, with *Windsong* (Ian Hawke) first and *State of the Ark* (John Hosking) second. Victorian skipper Ian Whitehead in *Isn't it Amazing* was third.

Heat one was a race of fluctuating fortunes. *Tuffa Gruffa* led from *Fanfare* (Geoff Totterdell, WA) and *Corangattack* for much of the course, but tactical errors allowed Canberra boat *Rustler* (Peter Russell) in to win by a minute. This race underscored the unpredictable nature of lake racing — *Rustler* had started about two minutes late after a rules infringement, yet still won.

1, *Tuffa Gruffa* (J. Thomson) 4-1-4-1-3-1-1, 13.7; 2, *Corangattack* (A. Smith) 3-2-9-3-5-3-4, 38.1; 3, *Cunning Stunt* (I. Cleaver) 6-7-2-2-1-6-5, 39.4; 4, *Travelling Sailsman* (J. Hawkins, Vic) 13-5-3-5-4-10-3, 55.4; 5, *Fanfare* (G. Totterdell) 2-3-12-12-8-8-2, 57; 6, *Rustler* (P. Russell) 1-11-1-13-9-13-8, 65; 7, *White Magic* (M. Bulka, Vic) 12-4-8-7-6-2-dsq, 67.7; 8, *Gunnadoo* (D. Meldrum, Vic) 7-8-5-10-10-4-6, 72.7; 9, *Soggy Sox* (R. Walker, Qld) 20-6-10-4-2-12-12, 74.7; 10, *Rolingstone* (I. Kalnins, ACT) 5-17-7-11-14-5-11, 87.



ERNST & YOUNG
International Flying Fifteen
29th Australian Championships
Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra
January 1 to 10, 1991

THE CANBERRA NATIONALS

The Nationals well justified "the friendly series" concept promoted by the Canberra fleet. Both on the water and off this was most noticeable and was commented upon by a number of club members. The results show that the challenging inland sailing conditions, with variable wind strength and direction, were mastered by most of the leading steady wind sailors from coastal regions. One top skipper commented that at home he could relax once he got to the front but in Canberra he had to concentrate for the whole race. Changing conditions frequently meant that he would be involved in 3 or 4 races in that one race. The crews that were able to concentrate on boat speed and observation of the variable wind conditions were the ones who performed best in the series.

Entries for the Nationals in Canberra totalled 29; a disappointing number in view of the sponsorship obtained, the intensive publicity, and the prior planning which went into the organisation for these championships. For example, by the December 1st closing date for entries, in spite of their closeness to Canberra only one entry had been received from Melbourne based fleets. Late entries, after intensive lobbying, increased this number to six, with three from Victorian country fleets. Four each came from much further afield, W.A. and Queensland, while two came from Overseas and one from the now defunct N.S.W. fleet. The remainder came from Canberra.

Social activities were well organised with highlights being visits to the "Gundaroo Pub" - a country bus ride to an outback pub with Aussie tucker; and an "At home with Canberra Fifteeners" who entertained the visitors in their homes one evening. Other activities included a welcome function arranged by the Club, a barbeque followed by a sports afternoon (this was won by the interstaters), and a very successful Presentation Dinner. The tourist facilities of Canberra were also heavily patronised by both crews and families.

The series was well publicized with the four local TV stations queueing up to record the event each day. A video of the series is in the final stages of editing. A copy will be forwarded to each State for use by members and promotional purposes. If you are unable to see a copy and would like to, please let us know and we will send one on loan.

OUR SPONSORS.

The support of our sponsors, Ernst & Young, was very important to us in the planning for the series. Without their very generous assistance we would not have been able to include all the social activities in the entry fee, nor provide the extensive array of Selangor pewter trophies. Their help in the pre-race period was of great assistance to the organisers. Toohey's also helped with items for the "Toohey's draw" after each race. Solo Marine's "Early bird" prizes were much appreciated by those who entered early. Finally the A.C.T. Sports, Recreation and Tourism Department's grant was greatly appreciated.

THE RACING

The Championships were very convincingly won by "Tuffa Gruffa" sailed by James Thomson with Robert van Veenendall as crew. "Corangattack" sailed by Ashley Smith and Phil Will were second, with "Cunning Stunt" sailed by Ian Cleaver and Greg Wells. Results are overleaf.

The Handicap Series was won by Ian Hawke's "Windsong" from John Hosking's "State of the Ark", and Ian Whitehead's "Isnt it amazing".

INVITATION RACE

Wind ENE variable. Speed 10 knots variable

"Tuffa Gruffa" (James Thompson - Vic) showed that in the variable wind conditions of inland sailing she had the form to become an early favourite for the championships. Geoff Totterdell in "Fanfare" was second, while Ron Walker in "Soggy Sox" was third.

RACE 1

Wind NW - NE. Speed 2 - 10 knots.

The race was one of fluctuating fortunes. "Tuffa Gruffa" led from "Fanfare" and "Corangattack" (Ashley Smith - Qld.) for much of the race, but they both made tactical errors at the last mark letting "Rustler" (Peter Russell - ACT) through to win by a minute. "Rustler" had started 2 minutes late after a rules infringement but steadily moved through the fleet to be up with the leaders by lap 3.

RACE 2

Wind W - N. Speed 5 - 15 knots

This was a close race in the gusty wind conditions with a number of boats choosing to sail on the "wrong" side of Spinnaker Island. "Tuffa Gruffa" battled with "Corangattack" and "White Magic 2" (Mark Bulka - Vic.) "Tuffa Gruffa" covered "Corangattack" to win by three boat lengths with "Fanfare" third.

RACE 3

Wind NW - NE. Speed 5 - 15 knots

In the light to medium winds three boats broke away from the rest of the fleet, and after a close race "Rustler" sailed through "Cunning Stunt" (Ian Cleaver - Scot.) on the final beat to win 14 seconds. "Travelling Sailsman" (John Hawkins -Vic.) was third.

RACE 4

Wind N - NW. Speed 5 - 15 knots

In the stronger winds of this race "Tuffa Gruffa" lead throughout defending against the attacking "Cunning Stunt", who was only 15 seconds behind at the finish, with "Corangattack" further back in third place.

RACE 5

Wind NE - N. Speed 1 -15 knots

In this race of changing fortunes in a predominately good sailing wind ability to pick the shifts was of great importance. "Cunning Stunt" did just that to win by over a minute from "Soggy Sox" (Ronald Walker -Qld.) who gained many places on the last leg of the course to finish second with "Tuffa Gruffa" third.

RACE 6

Wind NW - N. Speed 0 - 7 knots

"Tuffa Gruffa" sailed a faultless race to be over 20 minutes ahead of the next boat as they neared the finish. Realizing that if he finished then about half the fleet would record a DNF (being more than 30 minutes behind) Jamie sailed up and down the line until "White Magic 2" hove into sight - a wonderful display of sportsmanship which was applauded by all. "Corangattack" finished third.

RACE 7

Wind NW. Speed 10 - 15 knots

With the series already won by "Tuffa Gruffa" interest centred on the minor placings which were wide open. "Tuffa Gruffa" again finished first in gusty winds which saw two boats capsize when a 30 knot line squall passed through the fleet. The race for second place was decided after some aggressive tactics, with "Corangattack" recovering first to cross the line only inches in front of "Cunning Stunt".

PRINCIPAL TROPHY WINNERS.

Coweslip Trophy and 1st place in the Championship
"Tuffa Gruffa" James Thompson and Robert van Veenendall

Canberra Plate and 2nd place in the Championship
"Corangattack" Ashley Smith and Phil Wills

3rd place in the Championship
"Cunning Stunt" Ian Cleaver and Greg Wells

4th place in the Championship
 "Travelling Sailsman" John Hawkins and Helen Hawkins

5th place in the Championship
 "Fanfare" Geoff Totterdell and Ian Palmer

6th place in the Championship
 "Rustler" Peter Russell and Philip Russell

Uffa Fox Trophy and 1st in the Invitation Race
 "Tuffa Gruffa" James Thompson and Robert van Veenendall

Masters Trophy
 Ian Cleaver

Walbourn Trophy
 "Rustler" Peter Russell and Philip Russell

First crew with aggregate age over 100 years
 "State of the Ark" John Hosking and John Bolton

First boat with lady crew
 Helen Hawkins of "Travelling Sailsman"

First Overseas boat
 "Cunning Stunt" Ian Cleaver and Greg Wells

Flying 15 National Championships - Canberra 1991

Results

Olympic Scoring

Pos.	Sail No.	Class		Skipper	Boat Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				Points	Pos.
1	3308	Flying 15	VIC	James Thompson	Tuffa Gruffa	4	1	4	1	3	1	1				13.70	1
2	3101	Flying 15	QLD	Ashley Smith	Corangattack	3	2	9	3	5	3	4				38.10	2
3	3098	Flying 15	U.K.	Ian Cleaver	Cunning Stunt	6	7	2	2	1	6	5				39.40	3
4	3245	Flying 15	VIC	John Hawkins	Travel. Sails.	13	5	3	5	4	10	3				55.40	4
5	2974	Flying 15	W.A.	G. Totterdell	Fanfare	2	3	12	12	8	8	2				57.70	5
6	2835	Flying 15	A.C.T	Peter Russell	Rustler	1	11	1	13	9	13	8				65.00	6
7	1690	Flying 15	VIC	Mark Bulka	White Magic 2	12	4	8	7	6	2	DSQ				67.70	7
8	2755	Flying 15	VIC	David Meldrum	Gunnadoo	7	8	5	10	10	4	6				72.70	8
9	3254	Flying 15	QLD	Ronald Walker	Soggy Sox	20	6	10	4	2	12	12				74.70	9
10	2104	Flying 15	A.C.T	Ilmar Kalnins	Rolling Stone	5	17	7	11	14	5	11				87.00	10
11	3257	Flying 15	VIC	Bill Shand	Relience 60/5	18	14	6	6	7	15	15				98.40	11
12	2824	Flying 15	N.S.W	David Yuile	W Beaut	11	16	DNF	8	19	11	7				108.00	12
13	3259	Flying 15	VIC	M. Bulstrode	Enthusiasm	19	12	14	9	13	17	13				114.00	13
14	2830	Flying 15	W.A.	Chris. Wells	Men at Work	15	13	11	21	15	16	9				115.00	14
15	2905	Flying 15	A.C.T	Colin Brown	Snabb Fisk	26	10	13	14	16	14	14				117.00	15
16	2759	Flying 15	A.C.T	John Hosking	State of Ark	22	22	15	16	12	7	10				118.00	16
17	3262	Flying 15	VIC	Nick Peck	Fast Forward	8	19	16	15	22	9	DNF				125.00	17
18	3100	Flying 15	QLD	Len Hoad	T B Comes Ffir	24	9	PMS	20	11	21	16				137.00	18
19	3097	Flying 15	W.A.	John Wilson	Summit	9	25	19	22	21	28	17				149.00	19
20	3060	Flying 15	A.C.T	John Howard	Flying High	23	15	18	18	17	22	25				149.00	20
21	3242	Flying 15	VIC	Ian Whitehead	Isnt it Amazin	28	18	21	17	18	20	21				151.00	21
22	2906	Flying 15	QLD	Les Ellen	H W Go Again	14	24	DNF	19	20	19	20				152.00	22
23	2671	Flying 15	A.C.T	Peter Forster	Pakam 4	16	20	17	23	23	23	18				153.00	23
24	2756	Flying 15	U.K.	D. Walbourne	N.Welcomes & F	10	27	23	25	25	18	22				159.00	24
25	3256	Flying 15	W.A.	Stewart Miller	Aff Ur Chance	17	26	22	24	24	24	19				166.00	25
26	1192	Flying 15	A.C.T	Laurie Mc Gee	Wings	21	21	20	26	27	25	DNS				176.00	26
27	2387	Flying 15	A.C.T	Bill Causbrook	Barnacle Bill	25	23	24	28	28	27	23				186.00	27
28	3240	Flying 15	A.C.T	Ian Hawke	Windsong	27	28	DNC	27	26	26	24				194.00	28
29	3260	Flying 15	VIC	Nigel Peck	Ffoxy 2	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC				216.00	29

Total Entries 29

YachtMaster by Sportcomp Australia, P.O. Box 1096, Swan Hill 3585.

Flying 15 National Championships - Canberra 1991

Results

Olympic Scoring

Pos.	Sail No.	Class		Skipper	Boat Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				Points	Pos.
1	3308	Flying 15	VIC	James Thompson	Tuffa Gruffa	4	1	4	1	3	1	1				13.70	1
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6	2835	Flying 15	A.C.T	Peter Russell	Rustler	1	11	1	13	9	13	8				65.00	6
7	1690	Flying 15	VIC	Mark Bulka	White Magic 2	12	4	8	7	6	2	DSQ				67.70	7
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