

2020 Flying Fifteen Australian Championship

Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Manly, Queensland

Race day 1 - Monday was a big day!

A fleet of 20 Flying Fifteens have made the long journey from all over Australia to compete at the 2020 Flying Fifteen Australian Championship held in Waterloo Bay just south of the Brisbane River in Queensland. Some competitors had a long journey navigating around a host of bush fires still plaguing the country.

An invitational race was organised by host club The Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron on day one of the regatta but sadly the weather conditions were just too strong to race and this race was postponed.

The invitation race was due to start early and there would have been a break before the start of championship racing. On shore many crews were debating whether to go out at all due to the strong winds. Winds had only slightly eased from the previous day. The forecast was for 20-25 knot SE winds.

In the end, 17 Flying Fifteens took to the start line for Race 1 of the Nationals. The breeze was strong and the swell was short, sharp and the frequency was inconsistent, making it hard to make way upwind. The course laid was for a windward / leeward return, followed by a triangle to the finish. The reaches were sailed in firehose conditions!

(The Flying Flamingos), Lewis Davies and John Radnell from Victoria, took out race 1 from local champions, Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston sailing (Sake). Coming in third was (Surprise by Giver AUS) sailed by Stephen Fries and Richard Machin from Sandringham YC in Victoria.

Conditions for the second race of the day were much the same with regular gusts coming through causing havoc. The course was reduced to a two lap windward / leeward blast.

There were boats broaching and spinnakers blown out but the downwind runs were exciting. Only one boat out of the top four finished with her spinnaker up and in one piece. There were only 13 finishers with some electing not stay on the water for race 2, however those that stayed the course enjoyed a wild ride.

Race 2 was won by Stephen Fries and Richard Machin from Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston again in second and John Wilson and Matt Summers from South of Perth YC in third.

Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston are members at RQYS and have been practicing at the regatta venue leading into the regatta.

Ashley Smith skipper of (Sake):

“We haven’t seen conditions like those conditions today all season. While our upwind speed was not the best, downwind was working well and we made up what ground we lost on the upwind”.

John Wilson skipper of (Ffast Lane 4):

“The races were well run in such tough conditions. Lots of fun!”.

Race Day 2 - Boats and Equipment a work in progress

Crews, sailmakers and boatbuilders were busy overnight and boats and equipment were still being worked on in the morning with the smell of epoxy in the air before the start of the second day of racing on Tuesday. All boats and crews made it out to the race course for a slightly easier day of racing in south easterly winds in the 15 - 18 knot range, ideal conditions for Flying Fifteen sailing.

The breeze did shift a little more and the crews that picked the shifts well and were on the correct side of the course managed to make their way to the top of the results board. Race officers were also kept busy managing course adjustments with mark changes in both races.

(Fflashpoint) sailed by Peter Rooke and Paul Dunbar from South of Perth YC, took out the race win in Race 3, followed by the local Queenslanders, Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston (Sake) in their trade mark second position, and an excellent performance by Russell Shannon and Les Kearney (TCBYC) sailing (Reliance ffenty foo) joined the podium finishers in third.

In Race 4 the Victorians Stephan Fries and Richard Machin (Surprise by Giver AUS) stole the race win at the last rounding mark from the consistency of Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston (Sake) recording their fourth second place. Coming in third was David Tabb and Dave Bennett (Ark) representing CBSC.

Stephen Fries (Surprise by Giver AUS) recounted in the last race of the day struggling to make the top mark with Sake slightly to leeward.

“They couldn’t quite make the mark and were forced to tack twice to make it around the mark. That gave us a 50 meter lead and we managed to hold them until the finish and take the win”.

Race Day 3

Sake is on fire

A double bullet day for the locals representing the host club, Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron.

The first race of the day (race 5) got underway without delay in a 10 knot ESE breeze. The course was set for a windward/return, followed by a triangle. After the first windward/return, the race officer moved the windward mark to allow for a substantial change in breeze to the East.

The Queenslander's Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston came out of the blocks on fire to lead the fleet home for their first race win of the series. They were followed across the line by their closest opposition in the championship to date, Stephen Fries and Richard Machin from Sandringham. David Tabb and Dave Bennett (Ark) continue their climb up the overall leaderboard taking out third.

There was a short delay before starting race 6 so that the race committee could shift the race course to account for the breeze which had shifted East, then a further delay as the breeze moved further to the North, finally settling at 070 degrees.

There were 2 general recalls before the U flag was displayed but it still resulted in a clean start. The top mark was set perfectly underneath the middle of Green Island. With the influence of the island there were many shifts of up to 10 degrees and when closing in on the mark these became of greater effect.

This race, a 2-lap windward/leeward course, was closely fought out with close crossings and busy mark rounding's. The big movers in this race was series leader (Sake) skippered by Ashley Smith rounding the first windward mark in 14th position but passing half the fleet to be first boat across the finish line.

Second in this race was (The Flying Flamingo), Lewis Davies and John Radnell from DBSC in Victoria. A new name on the podium came in third, Sean Langmann and crew Peter Inchbold from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia in Sydney.

Adam Kingston, Sake crew said:

"We were forced out to the left on the first work and found a nice left hand shift coming in on the port layline. After rounding the mark, we knew which side to go. We sailed high and fast to the corner and picked up the next shift. A good day today"

Peter Shaw from Tin Can Bay Yacht Club is sailing with his 14 year old son, Nick. "The Fifteens are a great, fun boat to sail. Nick is having a lot of fun and so am I".

Peter and Nick scored a 15th and 17th today and are currently 1 point behind the leaders in the Silver division.

Now with 6 out of 9 scheduled races completed, the first discard has come into play.

Overall top 3 after 6 races with 1 drop

- 1 Sake - Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston RQYS - 8pts
- 2 Surprise by Giver AUS - Stephen Fries and Richard Machin SYC - 11pts
- 3 The Flying Flamingo - Lewis Davies and John Radnell DBSC - 17pts

Thursday is the lay day and racing continues Friday with the series due to be completed on Saturday.

Race Day 4

The forecast was for 10 - 12 knots of NE winds accompanied by rain showers for races 7 & 8 of the 2020 Flying Fifteen Australian Championships sailed in Waterloo Bay.

With the first warning signal scheduled for 13:30 hrs and a high tide at 14:42 hrs the tide would be flooding during first race and then starting to run out in second race. Surely this would give the teams a lot to think about with the NE course run in the lee of Green Island.

As the crews rigged the boats and launched them to set-out to the race area, there were passing showers, some quite heavy. A particularly heavy shower killed the breeze so with paddles at the ready, some boats made it to the mouth of the harbour before the NE breeze started to filter in.

Racing was underway with a slight delay so that the course was laid to match the new breeze. It was pleasing to see that there was a number of spectator boats out on the course supporting the teams.

The first race of the day got underway in 10 - 12 kts breezes as predicted and conditions were perfect. The course set was for a windward/return, followed by a triangle. When crews made the windward mark, they found that the offset mark was quite a distance away and further to windward. The windward mark had to be reset during the running leg and signalled appropriately. The reaches were fun with the second reaching leg being quite tight and challenging for the teams to keep the boats under them.

The top three finishers for race 7 were (Ark) sailed by David Tabb and Dave Bennett taking the gun, followed by (Sake) Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston RQYS with (Surprise by Giver AUS) skippered by Stephen Fries and crewed by Richard Machin from Sandringham YC.

The breeze kicked up a little for Race 8. The battle between (Sake) and (Surprise By Giver AUS) was at melting point with just 4 points separating them, (Sake) with the upper hand. The race got underway and an individual recall flag was shown. No boats returned, meaning someone was going to get some bad news when making shore.

As in the first race of the day, there were shifts and lulls and managing those was key to success. (Sake), after a rough start moved through the fleet to take second place behind Flying Fifteen stalwarts John Wilson and Matt Summers from South of Perth YC. Only 8 seconds behind the leaders, 3rd place went to (Ark), sailed by David Tabb and Dave Bennett, having a great day after winning the first race of the day. Close finishes echoed throughout the fleet with many places being separated by seconds.

The final day's racing is set to begin at 13:00 hrs, with just one race scheduled to complete the series. Whilst (Sake's) crew have their hands almost on the trophy, (Surprise by Giver AUS) is not out of the picture just yet. 3rd place overall is also not confirmed with the (Flying Flamingo), (Flashpoint), (Fast Lane 4) and (Ark) all very close. The final day's racing will be exciting with many boats tied on points or separated by very slim margins.

The trophy presentation and dinner function will be held after racing on Saturday evening.

Final day of racing - Race 9

Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston clinch the title

Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston from Royal Queensland Yacht Club did enough to seal the 2020 Flying Fifteen Australian Championship with a 5th in the final race of the regatta. It was their worst result, the remainder being all firsts or seconds. It is the second time that the pair have won the famous Coweslip trophy, the last being when the regatta was sailed close by out of Sandgate YC on home waters IN 2015.

The forecast for the final day of racing matched yesterday's forecast of 10 - 12 knots from the NE. Overnight there was quite a lot of rain, causing minor flooding in some areas. Rain threatened again throughout the day and the breeze was initially from the ESE. Only one race was scheduled for the final day of racing to decide the series.

The start got away cleanly and there seemed to be two themes - go left or go right. Regardless of the side of the course it was a tactical battle today, both upwind and downwind with substantial shifts and varying pressure on the course.

Race 9 of the series was won by John Wilson and Matt Summers (Ffast Lane 4) from Peter Rooke and Paul Dunbar (Fflashpoint), both from South of Perth YC in Western Australia. Third over the line was Sean Langman and Peter Inchbold sailing (Miss Money Penny) from Sydney. In fourth an excellent performance by Ed Brewis and Sue Thompson from DBYC, their best result of the regatta by far.

Unfortunately for Stephen Fries and Richard Machin from Victoria, they appeared to be called OCS in the only race of the day but fortunately the crew had sailed a consistent series to hold on to second overall by a comfortable margin of 8 points.

By virtue of their final race performance the two boats from WA took out third and fourth, Peter Rooke and Paul Dunbar just edging their club mates John Wilson and Matt Summers by a single point. Also have sailed a solid regatta (The Flying Flamingo) Lewis Davies and John Radnell were pushed down into 5th place on countback.

Final top 3 places overall:

1. Sake - Ashley Smith and Adam Kingston - RQYS.
2. Surprise by GiverAUS - Stephen Fries and Richard Machin - Sandringham YC
3. Fflashpoint- Peter Rooke and Paul Dunbar - SoPYC.

Winner of the three boat Silver fleet was (Flying Fish) sailed by Peter Shaw and Nich Shaw from TCBYC.

Winner on the handicap system of scoring was John Wilson and Matt Summers (Ffast Lane 4) from SoPYC.

Thanks went to RQYS for hosting and running a great regatta. Thanks also to all the visitors from far and wide, as far as England, Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. We wish you safe travel home and look forward to seeing you again soon.

With the 2021 Flying Fifteen World Championships to be held at Fremantle, WA in February next year the Australian fleet will be making the journey across the Nullarbor to Western Australia for the next Australian Nationals. For more details on the 2021 event visit the website: <https://www.flying15worlds2021.com>

Reporting by Chris Howell and edited by Jonny Fullerton



**2020
FLYING FIFTEEN
AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**
ROYAL QUEENSLAND YACHT SQUADRON, MANLY QLD



2020 Flying Fifteen Australian Championships

Hosted By Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron

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Series Results [Handicap] up to Race 9 (Drops = 2)

Place	Ties	Sail No	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew	From	Sers Score	Race 9	Race 8	Race 7	Race 6	Race 5	Race 4	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1		3989	Ffast Lane 4	John Wilson	Matt Summers	SoPYC	40.0	4.0	1.0	9.0	7.0	[20.0]	[13.0]	12.0	2.0	5.0
2		4007	Miss Money Penny	Sean Langman	Peter Inchbold	CYCA	45.0	3.0	[15.0]	8.0	3.0	13.0	7.0	[15.0]	4.0	7.0
3		3858	Second Breakfast	Karen Dawes	Russell Dawes	SoPYC	46.0	7.0	9.0	5.0	5.0	[19.0]	1.0	9.0	10.0	[12.0]
4		3855	Fflashpoint	Peter Rooke	Paul Dunbar	SoPYC	47.0	2.0	[14.0]	7.0	9.0	[17.0]	12.0	2.0	11.0	4.0
5		3972	Sake	Ashley Smith	Adam Kingston	RQYS	48.0	15.0	[16.0]	4.0	[17.0]	6.0	8.0	10.0	3.0	2.0
6		3657	Super Snabb	Matthew Mitchell	Graham Giles	CYC	48.5	5.0	2.0	10.5	6.0	[12.0]	9.0	7.0	[12.0]	9.0
7		3930	Aussie Falcon	Dale Collings	Daniel Jones	DBYC/MS	53.5	[18.0]	4.0	[19.0]	14.5	7.0	2.0	5.0	13.0	8.0
8		3767	Bubbles	Ken Bubb	Lee Bubb	TCBYC	54.0	12.0	3.0	6.0	[16.0]	4.0	5.0	11.0	[21.0C]	13.0
9		3941	ARK	David Tabb	Dave Bennett	CBSC	55.5	17.0	13.0	1.0	[19.0]	10.5	3.0	4.0	7.0	[21.0R]
10		3890	The Flying Flamingo	Lewis Davies	John Radnell	DBYC	56.0	13.0	[21.00]	10.5	8.0	[16.0]	4.0	14.0	5.5	1.0
11	1.0S	3651	Surprise by GiverAUS	Stephen Fries	Richard Machin	Sandringham YC	58.5	[21.0C]	18.0	2.5	[18.0]	15.0	6.0	13.0	1.0	3.0
12		4062	Up Ship Creek	Chris Villa	Mark Holmes	LMYC	58.5	[16.0]	12.0	12.0	13.0	3.0	[17.0]	3.0	5.5	10.0
13	4.0S	3710	SNAffU	Paul Young	Chris Howell	Sandgate YC	64.0	14.0	10.0	[16.0]	4.0	[18.0]	10.0	6.0	9.0	11.0
14		3572	Reliance 17	Greg Williamson	Laurie Williamson	Sandgate YC	64.0	9.0	[17.0]	14.0	[14.5]	8.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	6.0
15		3854	Reliance ffenty ffoo	Russell Shannon	Les Kearney	TCBYC	67.5	19.0	[19.0]	2.5	1.0	14.0	16.0	1.0	[21.0F]	14.0
16		3931	!	Ed Brewis	Sue Thompson	DBYC	70.0	1.0	5.0	13.0	20.0	1.0	14.0	16.0	[21.0C]	[21.0C]
17		3836	Effeefex	Gary Richardson	Karl Gotts	DSC	72.0	6.0	7.0	18.0	2.0	9.0	15.0	[21.0S]	[21.0C]	15.0
18		2911	Split Enz	Paul van Ruge	Carl van Ruge	LMYC	81.0	8.0	8.0	17.0	10.0	5.0	[20.0]	17.0	[21.0S]	16.0
19		3306	Flying Fish	Peter Shaw	Nick Shaw	TCBYC	85.0	10.0	6.0	17.0	12.0	2.0	19.0	19.0	[21.0C]	[21.0C]
20		2758	Free To Air	Graham Lee	Diane Lee	TCBYC	96.5	11.0	11.0	[20.0]	11.0	10.5	18.0	18.0	[21.0C]	17.0



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2		3651	Surprise by GiverAUS	Stephen Fries	Richard Machin	Sandringham YC	20.0	[21.0C]	[11.0]	3.0	6.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	3.0
3		3855	Flashpoint	Peter Rooke	Paul Dunbar	SoPYC	28.0	2.0	[8.0]	5.0	4.0	7.0	5.0	1.0	[7.0]	4.0
4	1.0S	3989	Ffast Lane 4	John Wilson	Matt Summers	SoPYC	29.0	1.0	1.0	[10.0]	8.0	[12.0]	6.0	5.0	3.0	5.0
5		3890	The Flying Flamingo	Lewis Davies	John Radnell	DBYC	29.0	6.0	[21.0O]	6.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	[9.0]	4.0	1.0
6		3941	ARK	David Tabb	Dave Bennett	CBSC	37.0	10.0	3.0	1.0	[10.0]	3.0	3.0	8.0	9.0	[21.0R]
7		4007	Miss Money Penny	Sean Langman	Peter Inchbold	CYCA	44.0	3.0	9.0	7.0	3.0	[11.0]	10.0	[11.0]	5.0	7.0
8		4062	Up Ship Creek	Chris Villa	Mark Holmes	LMYC	50.0	[11.0]	6.0	9.0	7.0	4.0	[12.0]	6.0	8.0	10.0
9		3572	Reliance 17	Greg Williamson	Laurie Williamson	Sandgate YC	59.0	12.0	[16.0]	11.0	[12.0]	8.0	9.0	7.0	6.0	6.0
10		3858	Second Breakfast	Karen Dawes	Russell Dawes	SoPYC	60.0	8.0	5.0	8.0	9.0	[14.0]	7.0	[13.0]	11.0	12.0
11		3854	Reliance ffenty ffoo	Russell Shannon	Les Kearney	TCBYC	65.0	[15.0]	13.0	4.0	5.0	13.0	13.0	3.0	[21.0F]	14.0
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15		3710	SNAFFU	Paul Young	Chris Howell	Sandgate YC	81.0	14.0	12.0	[14.0]	13.0	[17.0]	11.0	10.0	10.0	11.0
16		3931	!	Ed Brewis	Sue Thompson	DBYC	94.0	4.0	14.0	16.0	18.0	10.0	16.0	16.0	[21.0C]	[21.0C]
17		3836	Effeffect	Gary Richardson	Karl Gotts	DSC	109.0	13.0	15.0	17.0	14.0	18.0	17.0	[21.0S]	[21.0C]	15.0
18		3306	Flying Fish	Peter Shaw	Nick Shaw	TCBYC	121.0	17.0	17.0	18.0	17.0	15.0	18.0	19.0	[21.0C]	[21.0C]
19		2911	Split Enz	Paul van Rugege	Carl van Rugege	LMYC	127.0	18.0	18.0	[21.0I]	19.0	19.0	20.0	17.0	[21.0S]	16.0
20		2758	Free To Air	Graham Lee	Diane Lee	TCBYC	132.0	19.0	19.0	20.0	20.0	[20.0]	19.0	18.0	[21.0C]	17.0

(Ties: S=Score R=Race B= Bettered. Penalties: A=ARB/MED B=BFD C=CNC D=DNE E=ESP F=DNF G=RDG I=DPI L=Late Entrant M=DGM N=ENP O=OCS P=Protest Q=DSQ R=RET S=DNS T=TLE U=UFP V=AVG W=DUT X=EXC Z=ZFP Y=SCP #-NoData [xyl]=Discarded)





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1		3306	Flying Fish	Peter Shaw	Nick Shaw	TCBYC	9.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	{4.0C}	{4.0C}
2		2911	Split Enz	Paul van Rukke	Carl van Rukke	LMYC	13.0	2.0	2.0	{4.0I}	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	{4.0S}	1.0
3		2758	Free To Air	Graham Lee	Diane Lee	TCBYC	18.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	{3.0}	2.0	2.0	{4.0C}	2.0

(Ties: S=Score R=Race B= Bettered. Penalties: A=ARB/MED B=BFD C=DNC D=DNE E=ESP F=DNF G=RDG I=DPI L=Late Entrant M=DGM N=ENP O=OCS P=Protest Q=DSQ R=RET S=DNS T=TL E=UFP V=AVG W=DUT X=EXC Z=ZFP Y=SCP #+=NoData {xyl}=Discarded)



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