

Abbotsford Sailing Club News 17/11/2016

Almost N.E. and then...a howling Westerly!

It all looked very encouraging in the morning with the LtS group having a great practice in a nice North Westerly. At the start of the main race, the breeze turned nicely to the East and we set off in good spirits to Five Dock. However, it all rapidly changed to a very strong westerly which caused plenty of capsizes and withdrawals from the races.

I would like to specifically thank all the support crews who were on the water on the day: Judy, Anna, Robyn, Barrie, Mary-Lou and Annette. They had a lot of work and managed to get everybody safely home and had to save most of the Sea Scouts, who were clearly underprepared. Your help was fantastic and you put in a major effort: we couldn't have done without you. It clearly shows how important this role is for the club, so please make sure you show up for your turn on the roster.

Thank you also to all those parents and juniors who helped all of us back to shore safely at the club. It was great to have so many hands to help out.

This next Saturday is the 3rd Championship heat for all classes. Let's hope for some more benign breezes.

Our annual Yuletide dinner is rapidly approaching and will be held after racing on the 17 December. Please note this in your calendar.

Support boats: Please check on [the google calendar](#) or on the Club notice board when you are supposed to be on, and organise replacements if needed. This next Saturday, Mikki and Glen C are rostered on. Also, Sarah is looking for a replacement for her 26 November turn. Can anyone swap?

Any news to be included in the next newsletter should be sent to willemvervoort@gmail.com. Newsletters will come out every week during the racing season.

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter: [Unsubscribe here](#)

Learn to Sail

There was a steady north westerly breeze, but the LtS group set out on their own and went around the corner to Battersea to take advantage of the quieter water and better breeze. The breeze lightened somewhat and stayed at a perfect 3-5 knots. Six Optis and Ben in a Sabot had no trouble sailing close-reaches then return broad reaches for an hour and a half. The group stayed close together generally and all sailors looked competent and relaxed.

The group learned that coming into shore back to the club with the Northerly is a bit trickier, but we all managed to come back safely. All in all a great sailing effort. After the on-water session we had a de-brief and discussed the hand signals the coaches will

increasingly use to communicate well on the water.

Junior fleet

Charlie managed to win the race and was the only one who finished, with some crafty sailing in the fickle breeze.

However, there was no shame in not finishing this week as the strong winds of the change caught many of us by surprise resulting in only a couple of boats finishing their race.

The quiet before the storm, the junior fleet gathering at the start



Racing starts on time (check the sailing instructions), so make sure you arrive around 12:30 to rig your boat, attend the briefing and theory sessions, and then be ready to get on the water with plenty of time.

Main fleet

It turned out to be an exciting afternoon, with not many finishers. We started off with a pretty good fleet with 9 Lasers, 4 skiffs, two 420s and 5 in the Junior fleet as well as 5 scout boats. Everything was looking fine, starting off on a nice Easterly breeze. All was well until we came back from Five Dock and started on our second lap. A westerly blew in with a vengeance, which saw many boats capsize, with a whole series on the same spot near Quarantine. It was all hands on deck and most people wisely decided to return to the club. The only finishers were in the Laser fleet with David in Manooga finishing first, followed by Gary in Bad, with the handicap order reversed.

After the change, which created very erratic sailing conditions, came through, the fleet of nine lasers was gradually reduced as boats retired when their skippers succumbed to exhaustion following many swims. Two intrepid sailors reached the finish line, David Page in Manooga followed by Garry in Bad. Bad won the handicap with Manooga second. Unfortunately, in the skiffs, the Arrogant Frog and all of the cherubs also retired. The boys in Conditions Apply discovered how it feels when your mast becomes stuck in the mud.

Thanks to our fantastic support crews, the sea scouts were saved from major trouble. I think the Scouts would definitely have their hands on the Big Sook award if they were members. Judy spent time in the water helping Conditions Apply... back to shore, despite the presence of the Marine Rescue.

As president I am very thankful that all returned safely to the club with only minor damage. It shows the commitment of the members to safety and sailing.

Some photos of the events, but there are more photos in [this album on google drive](#).

David in Manooga at full speed and our gallant support crew of Barrie and Robyn bringing some half drowned scouts back to shore.





As mentioned before, a major thank you to Judy, Anna, Mary Lou, Annette, Robyn and Barrie for their skilled support. We were in safe hands. Thanks to Gai for finishing and coordinating from the club.

General News

Yuletide dinner: It is only a month away so start planning for this wonderful traditional dinner to be held at the club after Heat 4 of the Club Championship on **17 December**. Who would want to miss the visit from Santa? A sign-up list for the dinner will be up soon. All members and family and friends are welcome. We again plan to have a Christmas hamper raffle. Donations of goods can be left at the canteen.

Starting and Finishing: If non-sailing members or Junior Fleet parents are interested in learning about starting and finishing races, please see Mary-Lou and Annette. We can always use more help (and it's not hard!).

Social Sailing: The next Social Sailing is on 20 November, and then 4 December. Please contact Graeme on socialsailing@abbotsfordsailingclub.org.au

80th Birthday glasses for sale!

Good looking glasses with the club logo. Wouldn't they look wonderful for serving ice-cold lemonade to your friends? And only \$5 each!

And there are still beautiful club jerseys at \$65 each. Sizes Y, XS, S, XL and XXL are left. Payment can be brought to club and given to Gai, or you can pay directly into the Club Account No. 03591 9893, BSB 082 330, but note that the account name is: Abbotsford 12ft Flying Squadron.

Club shirts are also available. Cost is \$35 each.

Club meetings

Upcoming decisions in the club meeting: We are talking about the ferry wharf

developments, the RMS lease and ongoing negotiations and planning for the ramp. Please come and attend the club meetings! Even if you can only make it only one Monday a month. The next meeting is on 21 November. **This is your club!**

All members are welcome at the club committee meetings which are held on the first and third Monday night of each month at 8 pm at the clubhouse during the season.

Even if you cannot be there for every meeting, we value your input and would welcome you to the club meeting table. More people means more ideas! We don't send out the minutes to everybody, but if you would like to receive this riveting material, please contact Tom.Biskupic@gmail.com

Boats for sale

420 BobKat, stored at the club. Well equipped and has been sailed regularly over the years. \$1500 negotiable. Contact Kevin: kevin.john.jones@gmail.com

In this section members can advertise their boats, please e-mail willemvervoort@gmail.com to get a listing in the newsletter or to have a listing removed.

Dates for your diary

- 19 November Heat 3 Club Championship for all classes
- 20 November Social Sailing
- 26 November Race
- 17 December Heat 4 Club Championship and Yuletide Dinner
- 4 December Social Sailing