

Abbotsford Sailing Club News 29/03/2017

Honing our light wind skills

This was a tricky day with a very light Northerly breeze, shifting between NW and NE making everybody work very hard to catch the few puffs coming down the river. There was actually quite a large fleet at the start, so it was still quite an exciting race. We were all very happy to see the S flag, meaning we didn't have to sail the full course. Particular the junior fleet struggled to work against the incoming tide, the sailors should have a chat together to work out how to deal with these conditions! Some of the older sailors will be happy to share some tricks. Arriving in time at the start might be a first step, but some of the older sailors struggled with that as well.

The Big Sook Award nomination must go to Block Party who (with brand new sails!) managed to capsize with no breeze, when Nathan tried to pop the battens. A spectacular achievement. With the awards night coming up, I am happy to receive more nominations!

A reminder that a special general members meeting is planned for Monday 3rd April at 20:00 to discuss the impact of the proposed expansion of the Abbotsford ferry wharf on the club operation. The proposal and the envisioned increase in ferry movements in the future has prompted the management committee to consider various options to assure the long term future of the club. Please come along, to hear about, and discuss, this very important issue for the club. Further information has been sent out to all members, and will be available at the club on Saturday.

Next week, is another normal long course race.

For the diary: 8 April is the final club championship and after racing will be the **End Of Season Dinner**. All members, including LtS (and their parents) and scouting/venturer members (and their parents) are welcome. A sign-up list is at the club, but you can also contact Annette on aa.vervoort@gmail.com or on 0435 044 767 if you would like to attend. Costs will be as usual, \$15/adult, \$10/child, \$50 for a family of 4 or more.

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. For this Saturday, Luis and Nick S will run support. Thank you also to those parents always stepping in to follow the Junior fleet. This is very much appreciated.

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

After last week's good breeze, this week was a bit disappointing with so little wind presenting no opportunity to get sailing. The breeze was just too light and with the

outgoing tide, we would have had to collect all the sailors from Gladesville Bridge. Hopefully next week will bring better breeze. Having said that, Nathan, Connor and Judy took the team through some on-land activities including crab races and pulling the boat on the dolly around the mark. This will probably have increased everybody's fitness. Finally Chris and Nathan took the team out in the duck and the tinnie to practice observing the wind and tide from various parts of the river. There are many useful clues/signs if you know some things to look for.

You can check the wind predictions for next week on [willyweather](#) or on [seabreeze](#). Both of these are never exactly what we get at Abbotsford, but it will give some indication.

Junior Fleet Report - with guest editor

The Junior Fleet comprising, Evan, Evie, India, Marco and Nick set out in very gentle conditions. Conditions were so light that there were difficulties getting all sailors to the starting line on time.

The conditions made for tight racing (if that's the right word for it) and the lead changed about 75,000 times before the sailors made it to the mark at France. The trick was finding some wind to keep the boat moving forward. Generally all sailors managed to do this at various points.

Happily for sailors and the support crew of Jason and Adrian the race was shortened. Otherwise the kids might still be out there. Jason and Adrian would have abandoned them for the bar no doubt.

Evie stormed home for the win with Nick approximately 5 metres behind (this equated to 7 or so minutes). Marco and India were next to the line (but apparently they may not have made it over the line before they were dragged back to the clubhouse by Jason and Adrian. Sincere apologies to both kids). Evan battled the light wind and tide and successfully sailed back to the club to a standing ovation.

Well done to all for sticking with it in very unusual and trying conditions.

In case anyone was wondering, Anna and Charlie Dey went to the footy instead of coming to sailing. Their presence was not a particularly good omen for the Swans - who tragically went down to Port Adelaide by 28 points. We look forward to Anna and Charlie returning to sailing this week and to the Swans returning to form.

Thank you to Jason and Adrian for following the Juniors around. And to Adrian for this report.



A tight bunch of junior sailors battling tide and light breezes.

More photos in this album: <https://goo.gl/photos/HHZLMMGWZ1yKBnU19>

Race Report

With the light breeze, the race required all the possible skills, which made for very tight racing in many of the fleets and several changes in the lead. The Arrogant Frog was reminded once again that it helps to be at the start in time, especially with a light breeze. In the end it was a relief to see the shorten course flag.

In the Lasers, Chris D in SinKing managed to stay in front, followed by Garry in Bad beating Lee in Vibe by 1 second. In the handicap, SinKing also came first, followed by Judy in Because I Can and Bad.

In the 420/Open class, Conditions Apply retired, which meant Equaliser with Kevin and Jane came first, followed by Cost Ya skippered by Huon and TAD skippered by Simon, with handicaps in the same order.

In the skiffs, with A Grand Day Out still working on the mast, Block Party with the McNamara brothers and Quantum new sails stayed just in front of Fast Forward with Willem and Graeme, followed by the Arrogant Frog with the Hill brothers in third, who came late to the start and had to the longer second leg to Five Dock mark. In the handicap, Fast Forward managed a first, followed by Block Party and the Arrogant Frog.

Further in the skiffs, on Sunday, we ran a development day with the Sea scouts advanced sailing group on two of the Cherubs. Despite light breezes, we had a good day and had 6 Sea scouts rotating through crewing and skippering with Graeme, Robin, Willem and Stephen. Nathan gave dry-land instructions early on to get the scouts used to the trapeze. We hope to see the Sea scouts back on the Cherubs or with their own Cherub soon!

Thanks to Mary-Lou and Annette for starting, Gai for doing the finishing and calculations

and David Paige and Stephen Fujiwara for laying the marks and running support.



The Lasers racing at the start



Concentration coming back from France



Conditions Apply getting their spinnaker up first.

More photos in this album: <https://goo.gl/photos/HHZLMMGWZ1yKBnU19>

General News

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 day is Sunday 2 April. Please contact Graeme on socialsailing@abbotsfordsailingclub.org.au

80th Birthday glasses for sale!

We still have some commemorative glasses for sale. They are great for serving ice-cold drinks to your friends. 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 and rash vests are also available. Cost is \$35 each.

Club meetings

If you'd like to understand what the current scoring systems actually measure & why some would like them changed, talk to Graeme or Tom who will be more than happy to explain

this.

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. 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

- 1 April Club racing
- 3 Apr Special General Meeting and Monthly Meeting
- 8 April Heat 7 Club Championship and **End of Season Dinner**
- 13 May Annual Presentation Night for all classes