

Abbotsford Sailing Club News 12/04/2017

End of season and champions recognised

This was the last sailing weekend of the season (already?), and it was grand finale of the championships with plenty of boats, plenty of drama and plenty of laughter and happiness. The variable winds and no daylight to save meant that some were asked whether they had their navigation lights prepared. In the end our champions were announced:

Lasers: Vibe, Lee Dewane

Juniors/Sabots 1-Up: Boatzilla, Evan Gaha

420/Open: Conditions Apply... , Liam Gaha and Cooper Cotterill

Skiffs: Arrogant Frog, Peter and Steven Hill

In the evening, after watching a beautiful sunset, we enjoyed the fantastic end-of-season dinner organised by the social committee.

As the season draws to an end, I would like to thank all members for their volunteer input during the season in running support, social sailing, canteen and bar duties, starting, finishing, maintenance, running the committee, junior fleet, and organising socials. The club cannot run without volunteers and your input is highly valued. This also includes all the quiet support and advice to our junior and scouting members to improve their sailing.

Working bees: We are in the process of planning the working bee weekends this winter. As always there is always a long list of maintenance to be completed, including sprucing up the Optis and other club boats. We are likely to have 3 - 4 maintenance weekends and I would really appreciate if all members can make an effort to attend at least 2 days over the off season. Many hands make light work.

The first two working bees will be on the weekends of the **27/28th May** and **24/25th June**. More details in future newsletters, but please put aside some time on these days to help.

Any news to be included in the next newsletter should be sent to willemvervoort@gmail.com. Newsletters will come out about every month during the off-season.

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Learn to Sail

The final week of Learn to Sail saw another strong tide and dying westerly as the learn to sail group attempted a mission to Hen and Chicken Bay. It asked all the skills from the sailors to reach the beach at Quarantine Park, with some assistance from the support boats! Ben and his dad sailed the Pacer and got there under their own steam. After we had beached the boats, we mucked around climbing in the trees near the water. On trying to leave we realised how icky and sticky the mud was below the sand at low tide! Boats were covered in gunk, a shoe was lost, and it was very hard to get going again. With there still being very little breeze, most boats were towed back to the club for a thorough clean!

We hope you all have a good season break, we would love to see you all on Presentation Night on 13 May and of course in mid-September for a new season. The club will send out information about the new season around August 2017.



LtS starting at the club.



Working their way up to Looking Glass in the very light westerly.

More photos from Learn to Sail in this album:

<https://goo.gl/photos/We5cX3EUJXANpyAH9>

Junior Fleet

Seven juniors set out for the final race of the season and we had tight battles in the Sabot and Opti sub-groupings. It was great to see Michael back on the water after recovering from a broken arm.

In the Sabot's, Anna took an early lead but, a one time last, Evan closed right in by taking a line of his own, close to the clubhouse, on the way to the Bedlam mark first time round. Anna slipped away again and looked to be on her way to an emphatic victory but Evan charted his own course again on the second lap and made up most of the gap coming in a very close second.

The Opti's sailed a hard fought race with the lead changing on numerous occasions. First Charlie and then Nick took the lead but the sailors all came together at the back of the course - maybe they just wanted to have a chat? There was a tight tussle amongst this group of Optis in the second lap of the race where early gaps were closed by smart course choices and attention to trim. India caught them up from way back, Nick was third at one stage, Marco was nipping at Charlie's heels off and on the entire race. In the end Charlie was the first Opti home followed closely by Marco, Nick and India. Michael did well in his first race back from injury but was a little rusty and pulled out early. In the handicap, India was first, followed by Marco and Nick.

All of the Juniors showed that they can make good decisions on the water. During the race, placings changed a number of times as sailors chose different paths up from France and on to Bedlam. The final placings not decided until well on the way back to the finish from Cabarita.

Special thanks to Noel for his words of wisdom from the tinnie during the race. The kids really appreciated the tips and seemed to respond positively.

The Junior sailors also all had a good time at the end of season party with the Learn to Sail kids. Hopefully all will be back again next season!

Overall it has been a great season of racing in the junior fleet, with plenty of competition and great sport(wo)manship. It was great to see the group have fun together and fill the club with their busy activities, in both sailing and non-sailing (handball, swimming, stick club, tree climbing, magic tricks). The club is very happy with the overall growth in sailing ability that the group has shown and we look forward to many more years together.



Michael chasing the rest of the junior fleet.



Evan in Boatzilla showing off his ribbon for winning the club championships.

More photos in this album: <https://goo.gl/photos/We5cX3EUJXANpyAH9>

Race Report

Garry's secret training from last week paid off, as he managed a third place in Bad behind Chris Dey in SinKing and David Paige in Manooga. However, in terms of the championship it was all too little too late, with Lee in Vibe taking out the championship, despite only a 4th in the last race. Manooga was first on handicap, followed by Sin King and then Bad.

In the Open/420 class, Liam and Cooper in Conditions Apply.. managed to finish in front of Kevin and Sarah in Equaliser. The rest of the boats did not start or finish. This meant the Gaha/Cotterill combination took out the championship as well. Hopefully we will be able to offer some more competition next year so Liam and Coop will have to work a bit harder to stay in front.

In the skiffs, the light winds pulled the fleet rapidly apart, with the Arrogant Frog with the Hill brothers finishing well in front, followed by A Grand Day Out with Robin B and Jack H and finally Fast Forward with Willem and Stephen just before dusk set in. Block Party had to pull out early with battens falling out of the new sails and Attitude had to come in to beat the curfew. The Arrogant Frog won the skiff championship, with A Grand Day Out ending up with the best Cherub result.



Simon and Graeme waiting for the breeze to arrive.

More photos in this album: <https://goo.gl/photos/We5cX3EUJXANpyAH9>

Thanks to Mary-Lou and Annette for trying to get the race started, Stephen Rixon for volunteering to finish the fleet, and Luis and Nick for showing up for support duty.

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 possibly on Sunday 16 April (but then again, this is Easter Sunday). 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 (public holidays mean shifting to Tuesday).

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

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

- 18 April Next club meeting
- 13 May Annual Presentation Night for all classes
- 27/28 May Working Bee
- 24/25 June Working Bee