

Down Harbour Race 8 – Fact or Fiction?

Although the planned race to Manly and return for all divisions did not come to fruition, the starters and the 'Deck of Knowledge' in all their wisdom (?) decided that a somewhat shorter course was in order.

The pre-race gathering at the club looked like the crowd after a wet Twilight race and was well represented by crews from Starry Starry Night, the Trackies, Wellies and followers of Sir Charles Lyell. The idea of having a pie warmer showed promise.

Meanwhile the African Queen waited patiently at the ferry wharf seemingly guarded by the military in their 'flash' uniforms waiting to board the Landing Barge when it arrived from across the river. The Flaries attempted to join the happy throng on the deck, but were repelled by Captain Starlight and went in search of a safer anchorage.

Course numbers appeared – a brace of 31s and a 52 signalling the first time ever that these were considered to be 'down' the harbour. Then, on cue a small zephyr (not the car) arrived and the start sequences commenced on time. As it transpired even the weather was pleasant (despite the wind).

In Blue, Chloe (the boat) made a spectacular start but by Cockatoo (Island not the boat) was caught by Soundtrack. Around Cockatoo, Solitude and Flashback went in pursuit of the Trackies who had made off into the distance soundly in spectacular style. Chloe and the Jellies made a small break on the Chippies and Eggs. Speedwell, the followers of Sir Charles Lyell and Starry Starry Night were close together for most of the race. It was good to see Mind/Matter on the water on a Saturday where it does matter.

Around Goat, Soundtrack was a mere blip on the horizon as Solitude and then Flashback began winding their merry way down the river in pursuit. The amount of material in the Flashies asymmetrical kite would cover half of Greenwich. Soundtrack momentarily struggled in the mouth of Humbug (don't we all) before making it to a well-deserved win on the water and on handicap. Solitude likewise was well rewarded with second and second. Irrukandji had a great tussle with Chloe and just snuck in ahead at the end to be fourth on water and third on handicap.

Series result went to Blue Chip from the missing G Where Are You and Eggshells.

In White the Afrikaans were off from the start like James Bruce searching for the source of the Blue Nile. Whilst they headed for Cockatoo, Tana, New Territories and Joka battled the dreaded vagaries of Humbug. They were joined momentarily by the Flairies after they had started, bid farewell to the starters and went in search of company. As the whites went West Flair went East.

At the end the Afrikaans Isak Dinesen (aka Karen Blixen) held off the fast finishing All Black Legend then came the Territorians and Comedians.

Series result to Tana from Joka and New Territories. Well done.

Sometimes it is lonely at the top and that is all that can be said about Red Division.



The winning Soundtrack crew celebrating their victory.

Historical references in this report were correct at the time of printing.