

2018Q3 – SRC Review

Q3 started on 1st July with the most popular race that SRC has seen for many a year with the Golden Globe Race (Leg 1) starting from Les Sables d'Olonne in uncharacteristically benign Bay of Biscay conditions. At the time of this article, 3rd October, race entry is closed and we have 567 entrants of whom 214 have already made it to Storm Bay in Tasmania and, after most of them have waited the prescribed 90 minutes, have set off on GGR Leg 2 back to Les Sables d'Olonne. The **Seat Of The Pants** sailors are doing very well with many in the top twenty. Their bigger challenge will be in matching the routers up the Atlantic.

Our regular Series have continued in Q3 with the Ocean series being dominated by **Skovser** with two bullets and a 3rd. He was chased home by **Patrick70119** and **rafa**. In the Timed series of just two races **Kipper1258** brooked no opposition with two bullets. **Azur** and **rafa** were keeping him on his mettle. Again in the 4 race Sprint series Kipper1258 was on form with 1, 2, 3 and 9 closely chased by **rafa** with **knockando** claiming third.

Two other Series were run in Q3 with SSANZ out of Auckland offering three races with numerous islands to negotiate, mostly at night for Europeans and Americans, with this possibly favouring antipodeans such that **Tyger** won that Series closely chased by **Kipper1258** with **azur** following in 3rd. The other series was the 40' Series which, as a twelve race series with eleven scores to count will only produce its results by the end of the year. At present **psail** is leading on 110 points (discard 30), **Kipper1258** is second with 115 points (discard 42) and **Frangipani** is lying 3rd with 231 points (discard 64). So it appears to be a head to head between **psail** and **Kipper1258** and no doubt the choice of vessel for each of the three ensuing races in Q4 will be a last minute tactical choice by each skipper.

The five race Tall Ships Series concluded in Q3 with the race from South Korea to Russia. Unfortunately the real race was postponed once and then again by a threatening Severe Tropical Depression. As it was a buddied race SOL complied with the first postponement but we were unable to follow the second postponement and thus avoided racing the real fleet. The Tall Ships Series winner was **knockando**, followed by **psail** and then by your humble author on **Go4iT**, my first podium for yonks!

The Shackleton Series of four races deserves a mention as we have now finished racing in our Tall Ship Class B as she has been sunk by the pack ice and we have to revert to the whalers and lifeboats salvaged from the ship for our escape from the Antarctic. The next two legs will be tough but far less tough than endured by Shackleton and his crew where he succeeded in rescuing every single man. **bonknhoot**, **Beliberda** and **Careka** are presently lying 1, 2, 3 but two tough legs lie ahead.

Finally SOL is celebrating its 11th birthday with the TransAtlantic balloon race to the Cliffs of Moher. The winner will be the nearest to the finish, not the first to finish, and with 22 balloons hitting the finish line the Race Committee may have a problem finding a winner, but fortunately this result is not included in any Series.

Sailonline Race Committee
3rd October 2018