

2019 4th Quarter – SRC Report

Once again this has been a less turbulent quarter for SOL with hopefully some new courses that have challenged our racers.

Our racing in the 4th Quarter of 2019 produced the following results:

Ocean Series. With three races – Grey Whale (North to South), Itajai to Newport and Christmas Island (W) to Christmas Island (E) this Ocean series challenged our skippers to find the optimum route to the finish. The Grey Whale race at last provided some wind around Middleton Island and the western Atlantic gave us a good run up to Newport. However I suspect that the reverse Christmas Islands race generated the most comment. The Christmas Islands race posed questions from the start line including starting in the wrong direction to round the start island and then to plough south for the stronger winds South of Australia. Fortunately SRC recognised that this race would take longer and started it in November to try and get people to the finish in time for Christmas! We failed and apologise for those whose race was terminated but we had to get the quarterly and annual results processed and that meant closing the race at the end of December. This trial means that SRC will probably revert to the normal course next year, unless you all clamour for another attempt! **Skovser** won the Grey Whale race and was second in the Christmas Islands race. His 4th in the Itajai to Newport race cemented his winning of OCQ4. **brandystrega** achieved a 3rd in the Christmas Islands race and an 11th in both the Itajai to Newport race and the Grey Whale race giving him 25 points and 2nd in the series. Third in Q4 was **Beliberda** with a 3rd in the Itajai to Newport race, a 7th in the Christmas Islands race and a 23rd in the Grey Whale race.

SYC Series. The wind gods continued to be with us in this quarter and we completed all three races in this Series, namely ‘Barentsz Run’, ‘Stockholm to St Petersburg’ and ‘Regata Palermo to Montecarlo’. **ij** won all three races which rather conclusively wrapped up the Series for him. **WRmirekd** claimed a 3rd for the Stockholm race and for the Regata Palermo to Montecarlo and a 4th on the Barentsz run which gave him 2nd in the Series. **bonknhoot** claimed a 2nd in the Barentsz Run and in the Stockholm to St Petersburg races with a 9th in the Regata Palermo to Montecarlo and thus came 3rd in the series.

Timed Series. This series with races at Cape Horn and off Auckland proved to be a benefit run for **calmxy** with a 1st at Cape Horn and a 2nd in Auckland in the Yates cup race where SOL used our new MC38 for the first time – that boat can shift in a blow! **Wolff** achieved a 4th in the Cape Horn race and a 6th in the Yates cup giving him 2nd in the Q4 series. **rafa** had a 5th in the Cape Horn run and again a 5th in the Yates cup giving him a 3rd place in the Timed race series.

Sprint Series. This four race series on a set of new race courses concocted by David/Renegade (many thanks) was duly completed and was won by **bonknhoot** with two

race wins, a 2nd and a 5th. Chasing bonnhoot was **Winston_4** with 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th and third overall was **calmxy** with the even number results of 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th.

Other Races. In addition to the Series races several classic races were held in this quarter. We sailed down to Vietnam in conjunction with the **Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club** as a part of their **China Coast Race Week** for the **Nha Trang Rally 2019** won by **fastpassage39**. We joined **PIC Insurance Brokers** for the **Coastal Classic** organised by the **New Zealand Multihull Yacht Club** to **Russell** in the Bay of Islands that was won by **Kipper1258**. We joined in with the **25th Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta** race from **Port Klang to Pangkor** in the Straits of Malacca organised by the **Royal Selangor Yacht Club**. This race was won by **WRmirekd**. Finally we buddied with the **Ocean Racing Club of Victoria (ORCV)** to sail the **Melbourne to Devonport Ocean Yacht Race** for the **Rudder Cup**. This race was won by **ij**.

Ranking by Nations. As noted last quarter, SOLers may now be aware that there are quarterly and annual Individual and Team National rankings being processed by our Sail Coordinator. As at the time of penning this report the Individual National leaders at the end of Q4 have yet to be posted so you will just have to wait for SRC's end of year report when the results at the end of Q4 will be the results for 2019. At the end of November **Finland** was leading the individual rankings followed by **Poland** and **Peru**. In the Team National rankings **Italy** is leading with **Denmark** second. **Australia, USA** and **Great Britain** are contesting for 3rd. Full details will be included in the end-of-year report from SRC.

Some SOLers continue to express concern over the demise of FLASH and the impact on our virtual sailing. I repeat my comment in the 3rd quarter that all seems to be well in hand and an HTML5 version is now under test with sundry niggles being resolved by our technical experts. Along with a load of more information on SOL matters in general, further details can be found in the Forum.

Richard Hardcastle / Go4iT
Chair – SRC

31st December 2019