

## 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – SRC Report

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 lured us into a false sense of security.

The Coronavirus-19 pandemic has hit us all, but to varying degrees. Some countries have imposed and others have recommended self-isolation, closure of restaurants, pubs, hotels, cinemas, theatres etc. and non-essential businesses. In the vast majority of countries essential businesses continue, with some working at home if such is possible, but many workers are being asked to continue to venture out and provide essential medical services, manage shops, deliver goods around the country, police our streets, provide fire services, collect rubbish etc. and all of them are exposing themselves to the virus on our behalf. I am sure that I can speak for all SOLers by expressing our sincere gratitude to them for their dedication and send them our very best wishes that they all survive this challenge to emerge into the post-Coronavirus19 world.

Inevitably this pandemic has impacted real life sailing and there is hardly one yacht race that has not been cancelled as yet. This pandemic has not impacted on SOL and, thanks to the efforts of OPS, Admin, Marketing and my Race Committee, we have kept our racing alive from which we have received numerous enquiries asking if SOL could arrange virtual yacht racing in and around their club. A major early enquiry came from Sail Newport USA and this resulted in SOL setting up a three race series to introduce Newport sailors to virtual racing. So as not to disturb the established SOL programme, these three races are not ranked for any SOL series. It is hoped that many people will move on from this virtual sailing out of Newport into sailing way beyond those horizons and racing in everything that we offer from Tall Ships, via Ice Boats, medium and large cruisers, high-performance racers and now up to a maxi Trimaran around the world's oceans and lakes. Sail Newport's enquiry and the three race series has led to numerous other enquiries from USA, the Mediterranean and the east, south and west coast of Australia. It is possible that an attempt will be made to accommodate these requests for 'local' races in the form of Other Races in the 2020Q3 and Q4 calendars once the SOL buddied and traditional races are scheduled.

Our racing in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2020 produced the following results:

**Ocean Series.** With three races – 'Abu Dhabi to Dondra', 'Dondra to Sanya' and 'Lisbon to Cape Town' this Ocean series challenged our skippers to find the optimum route to the finish. The Dondra race took our yachts across the Indian Ocean to arrive at Dondra on the southern tip of Sri Lanka. After a pleasant rest in Sri Lanka the yachts set off for Sanya, an island on the south west coast of China, but first they had to navigate the Malacca Strait fickle winds and the congested waterways off Singapore before entering the South China Sea. The final Ocean race took the fleet in our Orange 125' catamarans down the Atlantic towards South Africa. This race required a major tactical decision through the South Atlantic; either to hug the coast of Africa for the shortest course or route to the West Atlantic or find some strong Westerlies into Cape Town. For weeks the African coast huggers were leading but eventually the West Atlantic paid off with the African coast huggers close behind. **Kipper1258** won the Abu Dhabi to Dondra race, **SimeMali** won the Dondra to Sanya race and **Mullionman** won the Lisbon to Cape Town race. However these individual triumphs were not enough for any of these winners to win Quarter 1 of the Ocean Series. Consistency was the key and in this respect **SKOVSER** with 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> won the

Series, **DIKKEHENK** was second with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and **Mullionman** was third with 25<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SYC Series.** We had good winds for these three races namely 'Lord Howe' as part of the Tasman Double, 'Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro' and 'Black Gold Rush'. **Kipper1258** won the Lord Howe race, **rafa** won the Buenos Aires to Rio race and **ij** succeeded with the Black Gold Rush race yet once again none of the winners won the Series and the quarterly prize went to consistency. The Series was won by **Dingo** with 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, second was **rafa** with 6<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and **Kipper1258** claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> (ouch) and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Timed Series.** This series with races at South Sandwich and Tristan proved to be a benefit run for **bonknhoot** with a brace of wins. **brandystrega** claimed the 2<sup>nd</sup> place at South Sandwich and **calmxy** claimed the 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Tristan. With two bullets **bonknhoot** walked away with the Series result. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place overall went to **geduio** from Italy with a 13<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> whilst **brandystrega** claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Sprint Series.** This four race series on a set of more new race courses once again concocted by David/Renegade (many thanks) was duly completed and was won by **calmxy** with one win, a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Chasing **calmxy** at 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Series was **bonknhoot** with two 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and third overall was **sassy63** with two 3<sup>rd</sup> places, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Races.** In addition to the Series races SOL joined the **Short-handed Sailing Association of New Zealand (SSANZ)** in their two-handed four leg race **Round North Island**. The real fleet encountered a wide range of conditions from force 6 – 7 when approaching Wellington to flat calm on the days before. These conditions were not encountered by the SOLers who generally had a very pleasant sail avoiding currents and the rain. **rafa** won the series on 9 points, closely followed by **WRmirekd** on 10 points with **batatabh** further behind on 32 points.

The nine race series for the **A3 – Agate Around Australia Series** has completed three legs out of nine with seven to count and at present **knockndo60** is leading closely followed by **bonknhoot**. The scrap for 3<sup>rd</sup> place is between **Beliberda**, **WRmirked** and **rafa**.

In Other Races we sailed up North to participate in **Up Helly Aa**, the Shetland celebration of their Viking history that was won by **WRmirekd**. The ice race on Lake Winnebago with **Neena Nodaway Yacht Club** in their DN Ice boats was won by **Smo** with **Windegg** and **Starship** less than one minute behind after 118 n.m.!

The **Puerto Vallarta** race down the west coast of USA into Mexico had some winds that tempted the fleet away from the coast for a while but then it became another coast hugger. The race was won by **Starship**, followed by **WRmirked** and **batatabh**.

**Ranking by Nations.** Our Sailing Co-Ordinator continues to update the Ranking by Nations At the time of penning this report; the 2020 Situation for **Individual Ranking by Nations** has **the Netherlands** leading followed by **Poland** and then **Peru**. On a **Team** basis **Australia** was leading the rankings followed by **the Netherlands**. **USA** and **Great Britain** were tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.