

2020 2nd Quarter – SRC Report

As predicted, the pandemic hit real life sailing across the world and to such an extent that virtual sailing programmes have been flooded with requests to host sailing competitions. Unfortunately, the impact of COVID19 came after the Calendar for Q2 had been published and so SRC had limited opportunities to accommodate many of the requests as the Calendar was full. In addition, many of the requests were commercial in nature and thus were not of interest to SOL which is a 'not for profit' organisation. Another section of the requests seemed to request that SOL host a virtual sailing race just offshore from the actual club whose members were stranded onshore. One splendid feature of SOL is that we can take you to race anywhere in the world, in a wide range of yachts, all instantly and hopefully the applicants from these parochial clubs could now appreciate that SOL can and does go almost wherever we want.

However, there was one request that originated from such a well-known and respected source which represented a world sailing centre that SOL bent over backwards to accommodate its expression of interest. The request from Sail Newport came from the Reid family, grabbed our interest and initially a package of three one-day races was created. The first was a day sail around Narragansett Bay for the Inaugural Quahog Cup in our Farr 30 (a quahog is a hard-native clam). The race attracted 667 yachts who thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to SOL, the racing and the craic. A second Sail Newport race was organised for the Captain Bartholomew Gosnold Memorial Race 2020 with a race around Nantucket Island in our TP52. Rather less numbers for this race as it was overnight with some narrow passages that was enjoyed by 298 skippers. The third Sail Newport race brought out our Maxi Trimaran for a two-week timed attempt around Block Island, Fisher Island and back to Newport. Initial winds were favourable but did not persevere and never really got strong enough for our monster trimaran to show her full capability. 326 Attempts were made with the winner Kipper1258 sailing the 86 miles in just over 4 hours. Apparently, these races were enough to persuade the Bermuda Race Organising Committee to invite SOL to host the first virtual Newport to Bermuda race (the **Onion Patch**). There were four fleets representing the range of yachts envisaged in the real race, with the support of their sponsors, and the usual 200 odd yachts for a SOL Ocean race became over 535 yachts with more than 400 yachts leaving the line in Newport and 360 yachts crossing the line in Bermuda. An excellent outcome with so many skippers new to virtual racing and evidently several becoming quite hooked on SOL. Of course, there had to be a virtual prize giving, hosted by Goslings (rum), for the four fleets of: -

Double-Handed Division: Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300

St. David's Lighthouse Division: Dehler 46

Gibbs Hill Lighthouse Division: X-Yachts Xp-55

Finisterre Division: Italia Yachts IY 14.98

A full list of all yachts' finishing position in each class can be found on SOL's website at: <http://www.sailonline.org/races/1354/leaderboard/>

Our racing in the 2nd Quarter of 2020 produced the following results:

Ocean Series. With three races – 'Perce to St Malo', 'Cape Town to Auckland' and 'Migaloo Migration' this Ocean series challenged our skippers to find the optimum route to the finish across the Atlantic, then across the Indian Ocean and up Australia's east coast. The Perce race took us from near Quebec harbour, round a former French settlement and on to St Malo on the north shore of France using our IMOCA60. The 'pond' produced the usual challenges and seemed unusually unstable this year offering a continuously variable routing. The racing then moved to the Southern Ocean as we reembarked on our 125' Orange Catamarans for a hot ride to Auckland on the north

island of New Zealand. Good winds for most of the way but then a parking lot appeared to the west side of North Island and the fleet seriously compressed. The third Ocean race was to escort the famous white whale 'Migaloo' from the whale sanctuary near Antarctica up to Queensland. Once again, the wind proved slightly fickle and on a 3,200 mile race the fleet, at its peak, was over 800 miles wide. Success went to the coast huggers on the west and indeed Migaloo was sighted late in June. **Ricotina** won the Perce to St Malo race, **bonknhoot** won the Cape Town to Auckland race and **Bimmer** won the Migaloo Migration race. Once again, these individual triumphs were not enough for any of these winners to win Quarter 2 of the Ocean Series. Consistency was the key and in this respect **Kipper 1258** with 2nd, 5th and 16th won the Series, **Ricotina** was second with 1st, 10th and 14th and as in Q1 **Mullionman** was third with 2nd, 9th and 17th.

SYC Series. We had good winds for these three races namely 'A to A Easter' a triangular circuit out of Hong Kong, in lieu of the China Sea Race as the Philippines would not grant access to their harbours for foreign yachts, 'Baltic 500' and 'Auckland to Fiji'. **WRmirekd** won the A to A Easter race and also won the Baltic 500 race, which was superbly managed by Bimmer with numerous course changes and a very late territorial exclusion change when Denmark re-opened her waters. **NagaJolokia**, a podium newcomer, succeeded in the Auckland to Fiji race. Yet again none of the winners won the Series and the quarterly prize went to consistency. The Series was won as in Q1 by **Dingo** with 2nd, 2nd and 9th, second was **batatabh** with 6th, 11th and 13th and **Go4iT** claimed 3rd with 6th, 11th and 15th.

Timed Series. This series with races at Hook Island and Gibraltar had good numbers with 338 runs in a Farr 38 at Hook Island Australia and 421 runs on our X-332 at Gibraltar. **dtayls** claimed the win at Hook Island and **Kipper1258** claimed the win at Gibraltar. The Series win went to **calmxy** with a 2nd and 4th and **GREATSKUA** was 2nd with 9th and 10th whilst **beliberda** claimed 3rd overall with a 7th and 14th.

Sprint Series. This four-race series on a set of three new race courses once again concocted by David/Renegade (many thanks) was duly completed and was won by **bonknhoot** with two 2^{nds} and two 3^{rds}. Chasing bonknhoot with 2nd in the Series was **calmxy** with 2nd, 6th, 7th and 8th and third overall once again was **sassy63** with 5th, 6th, 9th and 23rd(!).

Other Races. In addition to the Series races SOL raced around Vancouver Island, buddied on the Brisbane to Gladstone race and also on the SoCal 300. SOL joined the Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta off Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron and did the trip this time from Norway to Shetland and back with **SimeMali** winning this two leg race.

The nine-race series for the **A3 – Agage Around Australia Series** has now completed six legs out of nine with seven to count in a variety of yachts and at present **bonknhoot** is leading followed by **WRmirekd** and **knockando60**.

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 **Poland** leading followed by **the Netherlands** and then **Australia**. On a **Team** basis **Australia** was leading the rankings followed by the **USA** and **Italy**.

Richard Hardcastle / Go4iT

Chair – SRC

2nd July 2020