

2020 Q4 SRC Report

It is not big news to note that Coronavirus19 has caused a second spike in the Western world but now that we, in the North, are out of the sailing season there has been little demand for replacement virtual races or at least they have been accommodated in our existing calendar with one big exception. That exception comes from the **Royal Cape Yacht Club** selecting SOL for two virtual Cape Town to Rio races in 2021 and 2022 and then being the virtual partner for the real race in 2023. The whole SOL team is delighted in being invited to host these virtual races with the first virtual start occurring at 1200 UTC on 2nd January 2021.

Reverting now to the more mundane, in summarising the results for the Series racing in the 4th Quarter 2020, they are as follows.

Ocean Series

The three races for this Series were the last leg of the SOL Round the World race from Uruguay to near Lisbon in our 125' Catamaran, joining the Gray Whales for their migration North to South and then sailing the Christmas Island to Christmas Island race in our OD65 v3 that may need to be replaced with a bit faster yacht next year.

Leg 4 of the Round the World race was won by **batatabh**, followed by **Fisky** and **sassy63**.

A new set took to the podium for the Gray Whale race from North to South that this year was blessed with no wind holes near the coast and with good beam and stern winds for most of the way. The winner was **SimeMali**, followed by **RICOTINA** and **rafa**.

The third race in the Series took us back to a perennial favourite when we race from Christmas Pacific to Christmas Indian and the fleet had to make a huge choice between a) north of the Philippines Island group, b) through the Indonesian archipelago or c) south of Australia. This year each choice was exercised with the winner and second coming from the Northern group and third and fourth from the middle group. The southern group were not far behind but had a nasty wind hole in the Australian bight. The race was won by **nordee**, with **aner59** second and **DIKKEHENK** finishing third.

All of these fresh faces on the Ocean podiums gave us quite a jumbled podium for the 4th Quarter Series result. This Quarter was won by **FreyjaUSA** with an 18th, 13th and 7th result, followed by **bonknhoot** with 37th, 4th and 4th, that 37th proved to be expensive. Third overall was **Garagiste** with 4th, 11th and 33rd. Once again, this Series result shows that despite a 'would like to forget that result moment' these Series races can still be won with persistence.

Sprint Series

The four races for this Series were Hatteras Island, Malaysian Coastal Challenge (aka Raja Muda but not held this year so no name to buddy), Round Round Robben (why say it twice?) and Santa Catalina.

The Hatteras race was sailed in our Sunfast 3600 in the waters around Hatteras Island on the US East Coast. The race was won by **Zorba777** with **calmxy** second and **rumskib** 3rd.

The Malaysian Coastal 2020 was a slightly longer race but in our Farr 400 and some mostly decent wind it did not take too long for **WRmirekd** to win, chased by **corners** and **knockando60**.

The next race saw the introduction to the SOL fleet of the C2R74 designed by Mark Mills to a race around Robben Island and back to the harbour. **calmxy** won this race with **Zorba777** chasing and then **Sadlersailing** was 3rd. All three finished within 10 seconds with the same time for 2nd and 3rd.

The race around Santa Catalina on the West Coast of USA was in our rarely used Scampi 26 that needed some exercise. The race was won by **rumskib** with **bonknhoot** second and **calmxy** third.

Consistent placing in the races gave the Series win to **calmxy**, with **rafa** third, despite no podiums, and **bonknhoot** third.

SYC Series

Three races for this series with the shortened South China Sea Classic 2020, a race out to Lord Howe island east of Tasmania and then a second outing for our new C2R74 racing from Cape Town around to Port Elizabeth.

The South China Sea race was won by **bonknhoot**, followed by **nacrr** and **WRmirekd**.

Zorba777 won the Lord Howe race followed by **Galmoli**, a welcome newbie to the podium, and **rumskib**.

The third race in the C2R74 was won by **NagaJolokia** followed by **bonknhoot** and **Mouthansar**.

Consistent placing in the races but no appearance on the podium gave the Series to **knockando60**, second was **rafa** and third was **bonknhoot** who had to carry a 20th result from one race.

Timed Series

Although we only had two Timed Races in this quarter, they proved to be very popular. The Tour de Belle Isle lying off La Trinité-sur-Mer on France's north-west coast proved popular with 300 runs in our Seacart 30 and was won by **Kipper1258** with **bonknhoot** just 2 seconds behind and then **calmxy**.

It was the second timed race that brought everyone out to sail our Maxi Trimaran. No less than 543 runs were made around Kerguelen Island in the southern reaches of the Indian Ocean where several decent depressions arrived to whisk our boats around the island. The fastest run was by **bonknhoot** in 3 hours 22 min 14 seconds for 111.8 miles. Second was **Pit8008** just seven seconds slower and then **Kipper1258** in the same time as Pit but separated by the computer. Seven more boats finished with 20 seconds of Kipper so it was a tightly contested timed run.

The Series winner was **bonknhoot**, closely followed by **Kipper1258** with **calmxy** third.

Odyssey

Mention must be made of the four race Odyssey series where we experienced an ancient Greek Trireme that could sail surprising well but, with any lack of wind, had three banks of oars each side to drive it forward. This was a classic series with splendid introductions to the stories of Homer whose ocean passages we pursued although missing out on all of his shore exploits! The Series was

won by **SimeMali**, with **Zorba777** second and **Olav** third. After a decent rest for the hard-working rowers this series deserves another run.

Round the World Series

Using our 125' Catamaran this series took us in four legs around the World from Portugal's Cascais shore and back via Cape Town, Auckland, Punta del Este. The Series was won by **bonknhoot**, followed by **SKOVSER**, **batatabh** and **Jawz**.

Other Races

Two other races merit a mention and these are the **Association of Sail Training Organisation ('ASTO')** Small Ships Race ('SSR') in the Solent and the **Rudder Cup** from Melbourne to Tasmania.

The **ASTO SSR** was assembled at short notice for a tricky 21 n.m. race in the Solent in our Class B Tall ships. Unfortunately, wind conditions on the day lead to an amended course for the actual ships and SOL rules precluded us from a corresponding late change of our own course. In the event some **ASTO** ships sailed with SOL on our course and equipped themselves very well on their introduction to SOL. The race was won by **nacrr** but second was **ChallengeWales (ASTO)** and third was **GREATSKUA**. SOL was pleased to accommodate ASTO and looks forward to the next occasion.

The **Rudder Cup**, Australia's oldest race, is organised by **ORCV** out of Melbourne in Port Phillip Bay, and this year was sailed in First 40s. A decent turnout of 177 boats contested the race in a very good reaching wind until we closed the Tasman coast. The race was won by **NagaJolokia**, followed by **WRmirekd** with **FreyjaUSA** third.

CLOSING COMMENTS for 2020

Before moving on to the SRC report for the Annual Series and Nation rankings, may I please express my sincere thanks to Piero Meda of Winston 4, who as SOL's Co-ordinator does a huge amount of work in recording and processing our racing results for quarterly and annual Series (30 in all in 2020) as well as for National Individual and Team results as well as keeping an overwatch on SRC. It is a large volume of work which includes producing and issuing a large volume of certificates as well as ordering and posting many medals around the world. This work is possibly underappreciated by our sailors – but not by SRC!

Richard/Go4iT

Chair-SRC

4th January 2021