

VIEWS FROM THE POOP DECK - OPENING DAY 2019

Hello Sailors

Well Claremont, Perth and Western Australia really turned it on for the 115th Claremont Yacht Club Opening Day 2019. After a damp Friday, the weather gods smiled down and gave us sunny conditions and a good wind. Our new Commodore Darren Chatfield gave a fantastic welcome and opening to the season. With Mayor and Patron Jock Barker declaring the season open, before Robert Jeffrey blasted away with the gun and Ann Caddick unfurled the flags. Richard and the house team deserve a special congratulations for bringing the club to a fine standard to see in the season.



Then it was out to the water for the sail past. There was a great turn out of members and boats with Chaz Milner leading the power boat fleet and Colin Hughes, Kyzo Too, leading the sailors past the VIP boats to receive the salute from Commodore Chatfield and Rear Commodore Dinghy Dominic Papaluca.



Colin was followed past the saluting party by Beaujolais (Arthur Poland), Beagle (RCS Richie), Paprika (Todd (looking jaunty in his little sailors cap)), Andalusia (Chris), Vagabond (Robert King (great to see you back on the water and the old girl(s) looks great)), 2nd Wind (Kingsley Porter (in go fast mode)), Max on his Beneteau (next step into the race fleet to stir up Kyzo Too), Brahmini (our big cruising cat), and Don on Shee Rua (sans his normal crew selection).

Apologies to those I cannot recall as there were just too many – which is fantastic.

Once the VIP boats moved aside, it was flags up and the countdown to the race start. My crew was offering all sorts of advice about tying knots ('tie lots') and when we should start the run to the line. We got across mid fleet and the gunwale meat never forgave me after that. Chris and Todd played their usual games, which gave the rest of us a chance to stay slightly in the running.

By the rounding of the Mosman -Suicide Island we had all settled into our allotted places, before a very nice run down to Miller and Dome (Don, this is where flag identification really paid off in the results!), before the run back up and around the bank.



The team in the start box saw us across the line and a special thank you to all the team for your generous support each week (apologies for not mentioning you all on Saturday).

Rob took Dawn and I out on the start boat to hunt for our long-distance cruisers and collect the day bouys (ps always hold on when Rob has got his hand on the throttle).



Quick results: Kyzo Too (fastest and third), Beaujolais (second) and Second Wind (first). Colin on Kyzo Too took out the Commodores Trophy for Division 1&2 and Kinglsey on 2nd Wind took out the Vice-Commodores trophy for Division 3&4. For those who are counting Beagle (last & last). The results after handicap came in very close which is a credit to Robert and the handicappers.

Twilights start this week with BOM forecasting a nice day and coolish night with good breezes. Next Saturday is looking very pleasant for the second race of the season. I look forward to seeing you all down there and hopefully picking up a few more places and showing you the best line to follow.

Fair winds

RCS Richie

