



SYDNEY FLYING SQUADRON LTD

Australia's oldest open boat sailing club
Founded in 1891

THE RINGTALE

ROYAL PRINCE EDWARD YACHT CLUB
CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA
SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026

A GREAT DAY TO BE ON SYDNEY HARBOUR



Photo above thanks to Andrea Francolini (Facebook)

Having been extended a special invitation to join many of Sydney's most beautiful older yachts in the first RPEYC Classic Yacht Regatta, four SFS skiffs competed in the Regatta that attracted a combined fleet of over 60 boats of every shape and size – all of them lovely examples of sailing history on the Harbour.

Australia (Marshall Flanagan), The Mistake (Jerry Tickner), Scot (David Paget) and Yendys (Bazza Watson) joined in the festivities and enjoyed a sunny day and a light SW breeze that ranged from 11 knots to nothing at all depending upon where you were on the course. (The rounding mark at Taylor Bay on Saturday was a very special parking lot that reminded us why you don't go there when the westerlies are blowing).



*The four historic 18s in the inaugural Classic Yacht Regatta. Images snipped from video posted on Facebook here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8mrclass>*

With the skiffs handicapped on the PHS system, it was a scratch start that saw Australia get away best before being overtaken by Yendys that was in her best light weather mode with Yendys' sailing master, Andrew "Bucko" Buckland hunting every lift and demanding that Yendys kept moving no matter what direction she was pointing in. (We have often mentioned in previous reports Bucko's theories on maintaining attached flow on the sails in light weather. If you want to know more, you will want to join Bucko when he is lined up for a number of technical presentations during the winter program that SFS is organising. Along with Don "The Admiral" Buckley, it is no coincidence that they won seven World 18 Footer Titles and still bring that enormous technical know-how to keeping Yendys at the head of the fleet).

There is not a lot to say about the race itself, except that we couldn't wipe the smile of Jerry Tickner's face at the presentation on the lawn at RPEYC and later over dinner at the SFS. Jerry and his merry band of mistakes cleaned up the handicap result and the trophy, winning by over 8 minutes from Yendys with Scot in third place. Yendys crew were left wondering how much faster they would need go to beat The Mistake around the course (in the Regatta Yendys finished 8 minutes ahead of The Mistake), given the huge PHS coefficient advantage endowed by SailSys on The Mistake.



Winners are grinners. Jerry and his Mistakes

In lighter conditions it is always important to follow the rule, "eyes out of the boat" to pick the best way up and down the course. In the Regatta, the rule also applied to us all admiring some of the beautifully restored and maintained yachts competing in the other divisions. None were more lovely than the Regatta founder's two 8 metre Digbys of Williamstown yachts, Defiance and Frances. The Yendys crew are often seen crewing with Nicole Shrimpton and were very pleased to offer their congratulations to Nicole for getting this new event off the ground and also for picking up a fair share of the major trophies, including a first and third in Div.1.



© Andrea Francolini | RPEYC

Photo of the gorgeous Defiance and Frances with thanks to Andrea Francolini (Facebook)



Photo above thanks to Jeff Lewis (taken from Yendys Facebook page)

The RPEYC post-race celebrations were great fun. We were all picked up at the Squaddie by the enormous RIB tender for the maxi, Comanche and sped across the Harbour to and from the presentation at close to 40 knots, picking up and dropping off sailors at CYCA, Amateurs and RSYS, as well as the Squaddie. At a guess, there were around 50 passengers at one time, comfortably on board and enjoying the ride.



*Photos above with thanks to Bazza Watson (taken from Yendys Facebook page), and
Photos below with thanks to SFS member Henry*



Back at the Squaddie, there was little more to round off a great day out than to head to the bar and enjoy a very convivial dinner. There was still no luck in wiping the smile off Jerry's face though. So that, in addition to the Regatta Trophy, he also won the prize for the happiest sailor in the Club on a Saturday evening!

So that really is it for the sailing season. Thanks to Rolf, Stewart and their crews for looking after us on the water one last time for the 25-26 season. And thanks to all four crews for putting on a great show in the Regatta and at the RPEYC. All of our boats are heavily featured in Jono Wittey's official video of the Regatta that is easily found on the net.

Plenty happening over the winter to keep you in touch with your Club and our love of sailing. It has been a great 25-26 sailing season and the next one starting in October will be even better. Stay tuned!

Final results can be found here: <https://app.sailsys.com.au/club/1/results/series/5455/races/39864?handicap=5>

All Divisions		Historic Skiffs		Handicap type: PHS		Subseries: None		Status: Finalised	
								Last Processed: 18:03 11/04/2026	
Place	Sail No.	Name	Make & Model	Skipper	Club	Finish	Elapsed	PHS	Corrected
Historic Skiffs Start: 13:20									
1	2+2=5	The Mistake	Replica of 1933 original The Mistake	Terry Stewart	SFS	15:07:11	01:47:11	0.8054	01:26:19
2	REDANCHOR	Yendys	Replica of 1925 original YENDYS	Bazza Watson	SFS	14:55:00	01:35:00	1.0000	01:35:00
3	LION	Scot	1995 Replica of 1906 Vessel	David Paget	SFS	15:16:50	01:56:50	0.8465	01:38:54
4	BLACKOBLONG	Australia	Replica of 1946 original AUSTRALIA	Marshall Flanagan	SFS	15:16:33	01:56:33	0.8515	01:39:14

SFS PRESENTATION NIGHT

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Saturday 18th April 2026



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