

# 61<sup>st</sup> Skate National Championship - Busselton WA

## Race Reports - Prepared by Tegan Scott

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### Invitation Race and Heat 1 - 28 December 2017

Well done to all 11 boats who showed and sailed. A few blowouts just trying to get boats to the water (cradle's), but flukey breeze with some bigger bullets.. starters said around 15kts at times.

Well done to Natural Juices (Ken & Lachlan) on their win of the Invitation Race and Heat 1! They got their swims out of the way on the way to the start and jumped ahead and never looked back!

Getting Your End Wet (Brett & Laurie) were 2nd for most of the race, but Silvio & Mick on Gobstopper snatched second place at the end.

Bad luck to Brett and Cam on Tasty Fish for a broken rig down wind and Normy & Kevin on Whisper with broken stay also downwind.

The starters have left a comment on the finish sheet of 'Pete Fannon - Spectacular finish so need more info from he and Wally about that one!

Shark sightings today = 0

Shark sightings for regatta = 0

### Heat 2 - 29 December 2017

Heat 2 run today in very shifty conditions. The wind fluctuated so much that our first start (general recall) was almost a drifter, and the second start was windy again. General recall because half the fleet was over the line, second start had an individual recall (On The Road Again - Steve & Warren Hudson) but they went back and stormed out on the opposite side of the course.

Top mark first time saw Ken & Lachlan (Natural Juices) produce their own magic breeze and scoot off toward the wing mark before anyone else made it around the top! 2nd and 3rd around were the other two Lake boats (Whisper - Normy & Kevin, Welshie - Peter & Tegan) , but we were becalmed and Gobstopper, On The Road Again, and Tasty Fish came around and sailed over the top of us in very little breeze.

A third of the way down the 1st run after a big bullet, Brett and Cam had the serious misfortune of a side stay letting go and their rig once again fell down. Don't know where you did it Brett, but you must've hit a Chinaman on your way here! The whole fleet is devastated for you guys as you are so quick!!

The Natural Juices boys stormed off to a massive lead, again having their own breeze every leg!!

Silvio and Mick (Gobstopper) and the Hudsons (On The Road Again) stuck close together, with The Welshie sneaking up at every turn.

Cross to the finish and Natural Juices finished 3min 30sec in front of Gobstopper, with The Welshie under 1 and a half minutes behind!!

Starters Comment: only 1 second between Whisper and Traction's (Ray & Trevor) finish.

Dolphin count today = 1 (and it definitely had a blow hole on the top!)

Shark Count Today = 0

Regatta Shark Count = 0

# 61<sup>st</sup> Skate National Championship - Busselton WA

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### Heats 3 & 4 - 31 December 2017

Heat 3 and 4 were sailed back to back in a little more consistent breeze (only slightly).

Natural Juices again jumped out of the box and got to the top mark first, with The Welshie II sailing up the opposite side of the course and fluking second around the mark for the first go. Tasty Fish finally got the opportunity to show us what they've got, and screamed out in front to take the win in Heat 3.

Gobstopper (Silvio & Mick) got the jump on Natural Juices in the end (ignoring the message on the back of Ken's boat = Silvio follow us!) to finish second and third respectively, only a few seconds between them.

Megasauarse (Paul Shiner & Paul Anesbury) had a smoking race and snatched fourth from The Welshie II and On The Road Again who tied across the line, with Traction 2 seconds behind them to give the start boat a tricky finish.

Heat 4 saw a postponement in sequence due to the start boat drifting slightly, then we all got anxious and caused a general recall.

Once again, Tasty Fish stormed out in front and Getting Your End Wet (Brett & Laurie) were the boats to catch. Natural Juices were hot on their tails, but suffered a kite drop mishap which dropped them back into 5th position.

The Welshie II (Peter & Tegan) caught Gobstopper up the work the last time for third place, only to then swim it on the last tack before the finish line and dropped back to sixth in the end.

Well done to Tasty Fish (Brett & Cam) for their 1st place, Getting Your End Wet (Brett & Laurie) on 2nd and Gobstopper (Silvio & Mick) for rounding out the podium in Heat 4.

Squid's caught today from start boat = 1

Dolphins sighted = 2

Flying fish sighted = 3

Shark sightings today = 0

Regatta Shark Sightings = 0

### Heat 5 - 02 January 2018

Heat 5 today was sailed in a light Nor'wester.

Gobstopper (Silvio & Mick) were a LONG way over and we had an individual recall, and then most of the fleet working up the shore side of the course.

Smoking us all to the first mark was Every Which Way (Alex & Jake), followed closely by Whisper (Norm & Kevin) with a blinding work, then Getting Your End Wet (Brett and Emma Sills) - SIDE NOTE: Laurie Parsons had an undisclosed medical condition, and a work callout which saw him return to Perth today to recover. We wish you good health and hope you return to help Brett stay on track! 🤔🤔

Alex and Jake continued their lead all the way round to the top mark on the 2nd lap, but slipped back into the fleet by the time they rounded the bottom mark after the windward leeward.

Tasty Fish's (Brett & Cam) luck didn't last long and the black cat crossed them for the second set, where they destroyed the pulley system for their bow pole/kite hoist - Cam had too many Weetbix this morning, and unfortunately retired from the race.

# 61<sup>st</sup> Skate National Championship - Busselton WA

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Gobstopper rounded in front of Getting Your End Wet for the last triangle, with Every Which Way climbing back into 3rd.

Finish line approaches with Getting Your End Wet crossing in front of Gobstopper by 38 seconds, and Natural Juices II a further 2 minutes behind rounding out the podium!

Stingray count today = 1 (close to the club)

Squid caught by start boat today = 0

Shark count today = 0

Regatta shark count = 0

### Heat 6 – 04 January 2018

Heat 6 today with a nor'wester that tricked us all into thinking was good pressure before we left the shore. Upon reaching the start boat to sign on, we quickly realised that there was nowhere near as much wind as we had all hoped.

Every Which Way (Alex & Jake) once again smashed the fleet to the top mark, with Gobstopper, Tasty Fish, Whisper, & Natural Juices in the mix.

The course was a little kinder to us all today, which meant we could all make the first wing mark, and if we just skipped past it, we could make it back to the bottom mark without too much hassle and gybes.

Second time to the top, Every Which Way was still in front, but 2nd-5th caught up to be right on his tail. Whisper (Norm & Kevvy) managed to sneak inside Every Which Way, Tasty Fish and Gobstopper to jump into 2nd round the bottom mark.

Gobstopper out sailed the fleet and snuck into 1st place from Every Which Way at the top the 3rd time round. Tasty Fish rounded closely behind.

To keep you all in suspense, we are not going to post the final placings from today, as the racing is very tight and all of the placings changed before the finish when the breeze kicked.

Shout out to all of the guys here this series, it has been great, close racing all week, and certainly enjoyable (even with the shitty, shifty breezes).

Squid caught from start boat today = 0 too lumpy

Flying fish seen today = 2

Shark shaped patch of weed = 1

Sharks seen today = 0

Shark regatta count = 0

### Heat 7 – 05 January 2018

Well, today was a big day. We knew with our 10am start it was scheduled to be 20+ knots.

Early down to the club and it was howling from the west. Every boat struggled to get off the shore, most having a swim before even getting the rudders on, but then got out into the chop and more wind.

Traction (Ray & Trevor) decided that as the winners in the cruising division had not had a swim the entire regatta, they didn't want to ruin their streak and stayed on shore.

Tasty Fish (Brett & Cam) left the beach only to return shortly after with Brett's shoulder being in a bad way and not being able to survive the day.

# 61<sup>st</sup> Skate National Championship - Busselton WA

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Ges Wot (Pete & Emma) left the bank after a swim getting the rudder on, only to have issues further out and starting to sink. When the support boat arrived, they decided it was best to leave the boat on its side and be towed that way, as it was taking on too much water. See Annie's video for when they got back to shore.

After a short postponement, we started the race with The Welshie (Peter & Tegan) and Getting Your End Wet (Brett & Laurie) taking a port hand start and sailing the opposite side of the course then everyone else.

Natural Juices (Ken & Lachlan) rounded 1st, with The Welshie close behind, followed by Gobstopper (Silvio & Michele) in 3rd.

The 2 sail reach to the wing was very tough, with no more rudder to pull on and the nose still going in. Natural Juices grannied and then flew the kite to the bottom, The Welshie gybed and set the kite, with Gobstopper setting and beating The Welshie to the bottom. Every Which Way withdrew with a broken jib luff.

2nd time up, Gobstopper and Natural Juices both had a swim where the waves got bigger at the top, which let The Welshie slip to the front, only to swim during their gybe, turtle it and the last hit on the bottom snapped the mast- BUGGER! This left Natural Juices and Gobstopper to fight it out, with Getting Your End Wet 3rd, Megasauarse in 4th, Whisper 5th and On The Road Again 6th.

The Welshie limped to the nearest part of the beach, and were met by a group of people ready to help push the boat back to the club.

Getting Your End Wet was almost to the bottom mark for the 2nd time and swam, to find they had broken the tip of their mast, and also limped back to shore. And then there were 5.

On the last triangle, Gobstopper had a huge swim at the bottom mark and were in the water a long time. Megasauarse was hunting them down, only to swim close to the mark and broke a lower. They continued on.

All we could see from the beach was Natural Juices smoking toward the finish, but then they tipped in. Thankfully able to do some repairs whilst in the water and limped across the finish line to claim their 3rd win (4th if you count invitation race) of the regatta. Holding us all in suspense, Gobstopper crossed the line in 2nd, which is all they needed to do to claim their first national titles! Absolutely killing it was Megasauarse 3rd, Whisper 4th and On The Road Again 5th and showing us all their survival skills.

Whisper swam and then limped to the nearest beach to drop the mainsail and limp home again. The Hudsons and Paul & Paul made it back.

Gobstopper wasn't as lucky, as their emotions ran high from the realisation they'd won, and the sheer exhaustion from the windy and wavy day, they swam and couldn't get the boat back to shore. The club sent another boat out to assist with a few Cherub sailors who jumped into the water to help Mick and Silv. Ken, Emma and Tegan went back out in the start boat to help get the guys and the boat to shore safely and congratulate the boys on their win and survival.

So, as I said, Wow, what an end to the regatta!! It was a brilliant, close series, with some very bad luck to Brett & Cam, but all in all i think everyone is stoked with the sailing.

Flying fish today = 2

Shark sightings today = 0

Total regatta shark sightings = 0