

St George Sailing Club - Skate Class Report - 2022-23 Season

Well, what a season for the crew of the What Now, skipper Greg Paterson and crewed by Yianni Foufas, they had a clean sweep of results! Winning the National Title at Ceduna, the States, the Club Championship, Second Half Pointscore and the 14 Ft. Challenge.

The Nationals was a close tussle with Western Australian father and son crew Brett and Cameron Fannon sailing Plan B. The two boats dead heated after 7 Heats and Greg and Yianni won the title on a countback.

The States were won in a dominant way winning heats at St. George, Kurnell Catamarans, South Lake Macquarie and Toronto.

The Club Championship was won with 6 out of 7 heats.

A very dominant performance overall and one not seen for many years. Lots of effort went into their success, new North Sails, plenty of hours spent on the boat and its rig and they just keep getting quicker.

Thank you to all the volunteers for allowing us to enjoy our sport! Thanks to the boat crews - Glenn York, Tony Doyle, Keith and Bob Fleming until their retirement just after Christmas. Then thanks to a multitude of relief crews on the Blue Boat, Robert Maxwell, Keagan York, James Turner, Sam Monkhouse. Peter Edwards, Paul Donovan and a few other valuable crewmembers that I have to apologise for not remembering every name.

To the Starters boat crew - Lorraine, Darryl and John Hall for starting not only Club Races but the MG nationals and the Scow Moth's Nationals. A very busy Season with many swinging breezes right on start time.

Well done to Jack for all his organisation and getting the boatshed going and co-ordinating sailing in the initial year of the new building. To Greg Halliday, Skate Secretary, for his preparing programmes, running the State Titles, The 14ft Challenge, liaising with all the other clubs and putting season results together. Excellent work!!

In the Skates our fleet was affected by post operative leave for Mick Winney on Take It Easy and a knee injury for Sean Leonard on Fish Lolly, however both boats resumed sailing in the last few weeks of the season.

That left a fleet of six with usually 4 to 5 starters each week.

Keith Sinton and Chris Sinton sailed all but one race and with continual development on the rig and a new set of Doyle Sails successfully won the Club Pointscore, a heat of the Club Championship and several Trophy races.

John and Glenn on Never Give N Inch were there every race and managed to sail consistently to be runner up in the Pointscore and Club Championship and won the First Half Season Pointscore.

Ray Simpson and Peter Howard teamed up again on the Double Decker Dog winning several races and placing 6th at the Nationals at Ceduna and winning the series on Handicap.

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David Luck and Greg Dixon had a quiet season, selling Cho Kon It to Brett Fannon in WA. They generally sailed Any Which Way and were the closest boat to What Now. Dave and Glenn Crichton running third overall at the Nationals winning the Invitation race and the Veterans Trophy.

We look to have 8 boats sailing in the 23/24 season with The Nationals being held in Perth at East Fremantle Yacht Club. We look forward to the return of Greg Halliday with Burnt to the Bone and with Take it Easy and Fish Lolly and Les Henn on Random Heads making a larger fleet.

Cheers, enjoy the new season, and keep enjoying the new Clubhouse.

John Grant

Skate Class Organiser