

Drummoyne Sailing Club

Hartley TS16s 2018 – 2019 Season Report & Results

This year TS 16s will celebrate their fiftieth year at Drummoyne Sailing Club.

The club welcomed two newcomers this season, two father and son teams: Greg and Peter Widders in Tax Return; and Ken and Ian Caldwell in Ten. Both experienced a few slow races and rigging problems in their first races, but both also achieved a win on handicap before the season was out.

The TS 16 fleet now numbers 15, although Hindsight did not sail this season, due to illness. We hope to see Hindsight on the water next season.

Most boats won at least one handicap race. Helen Joy, skippered by Chris Giaquinto and crewed alternately by Keith Carter and Ross Pollitt, won four handicaps as did Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt in Tranquil. Ron Johnston and Ben Speed in Annette won three handicap races, as did Peter Dallas and Ian Campbell in Tempo.

But the clear overall handicap winner was David and Russell Johnston in Murphy's Law. They won the Season Point Score, the Spring Point Score and the Summer Point Score. David said, that to win the point score "you need to show up every week".

He said their most memorable race was the third last race, on March 30. Only six boats started, with the less experienced and more cautious sailors deciding against venturing out in the forecast conditions. One boat, Hironnelle, came in after one round as the storm clouds built up. The storm, with WNW winds of 39 knots hit, as the TS16s were on their second last leg. Helen Joy gybed and capsized, and only four boats finished. David admits he was ready to pull out as the storm loomed, but Russell wanted to keep racing, and they came in third after Tranquil and Annette.

The TS16 championship has been dominated by Eric Partland in Uncle Roy, who won it in 12 of the preceding 13 years. Eric and Gary retired, temporarily as it turns out, this season, leaving the way clear for others to secure the championship.

Tranquil, Helen Joy and Annette all won Championship Races, but by the end of the season Tranquil was the clear winner. Tranquil also won the Fastest Time Point Score, and was second in the Season Point Score.

Neil Johnson is the TS16 president. He skipper's Tranquil, and began his sailing career at Snails Bay Sabot Sailing Club, which became Drummoyne Juniors, in 1962 in a Sabot called Havoc. He joined DSC, sailing a VJ, in the 1963/64 season and has been a member ever since.

Neil comes from an old Balmain sailing family, his father Roy and his brothers sailed the 18 footer Eileen, and then the Crystal Shirt. "The whole crew were Johnsons," Neil said.

Neil has sailed in 16s at DSC, and 12s at Balmain. He first sailed in TS16s at DSC with Norm Thompson, who was then TS16 president. He crewed in a number of boats, finally buying his own boat from John Gilliard in 2000. For several years Neil sailed with his family, with wife Susan and son Matt, who was five at the time. (A child has to be at least 12 before they can sail two-up.)

Then he sailed with Matt and daughter Rene, winning a point score, the only winner who sailed three-up. For the past two seasons Brett Pollitt has crewed in Tranquil.

Neil has been president of the TS16s since 2012.

Brett Pollitt has sailed at DSC for over 30 years. Prior to joining, Brett and his brother Ross sailed at Dobroyd Point. Brett successfully sailed in the 16 foot skiffs until two years ago. He won club championships and point scores, as well as an association point score in the skiffs. But he found it was getting too expensive, and said he had done everything he wanted to do in the skiffs.

But his retirement was premature. Neil heard Brett had sold his boat, and rang him. Brett said they have worked well together, despite being two skippers. "TS16s might be a little bit slower, but it is still racing," he said. "It has worked out well for both of us, our sailing kept on improving. We just got better and better, and more consistent." Brett's advice on winning the point score chimes with David's: "the key is to start and finish every race".

Next season the fleet will increase to 16: Eric Partland and Gary Wills will be back. Eric has purchased Norm Thompson's old boat Exit. Norm died this year, and Eric will rename the boat Uncle Norm in his honour. By Asa Wahlquist

Results 2018-2019

Championship

1. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt
2. Annette, Ron Johnston and Ben Speed
3. Helen Joy, Chris Giaquinto and Keith Carter alternating with Ross Pollitt

Fastest Point Score

1. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt
2. Annette, Ron Johnston and Ben Speed
3. Helen Joy, Chris Giaquinto and Keith Carter alternating with Ross Pollitt

Season Point Score

1. Murphy's Law, David and Russell Johnston
2. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt
3. Annette, Ron Johnston and Ben Speed

Spring Point Score

1. Murphy's Law, David and Russell Johnston
2. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt
3. Helen Joy, Chris Giaquinto and Keith Carter alternating with Ross Pollitt

Summer Point Score

1. Murphy's Law, David and Russell Johnston
2. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt
3. Annette, Ron Johnston and Ben Speed

Jack Gilliard Memorial Trophy

1. Murphy's Law, David and Russell Johnston
2. Helen Joy, Chris Giaquinto and Keith Carter alternating with Ross Pollitt
3. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt

Don Jelfs Memorial Trophy

1. Murphy's Law, David and Russell Johnston
2. Helen Joy, Chris Giaquinto and Keith Carter alternating with Ross Pollitt
3. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt