

Drummoyne Sailing Club TS16s 2021/2022 season



The 2021/2022 season got off to a late start due, again, to Covid, with the originally scheduled Race 7 becoming Race 1. It was a La Nina summer, with heavy rains setting a record for Sydney rainfall for the first three months of 2022.

Three races were abandoned, so a total of 15 races held.

The story of the season was the triumphant arrival of Totally Sinister on the water. Neil Bilsborough's latest masterpiece was skippered by Craig Jelfs, who has won a number of Australian TS16 championships with various members of the Bilsborough family. Neil crews. His long time crew, Denis McDermott, has retired from sailing, but still comes down to the club to watch the races and work the winch.

Totally Sinister experienced some rigging problems in their first race, but went on to secure the Championship, wresting it from Eric Partland, who sails in Uncle Norm with Garry Wills. Eric has won the club championship every season since 2005/6, with only two, now three, exceptions, including the year he and Garry did not sail. Uncle Norm continued to show good form, winning the Fastest Point Score.

Totally Sinister had two wins, two second places and one third over the five championship races. Tranquil, Neil Johnson and Brett Pollitt, put up a good fight and came second, with Uncle Norm third.

Murphy's Law, David Johnston and Kate Thompson, won the Season Point Score. Murphy's Law is a repeat point score winner. David maintains the key to winning it is to turn up every week and get out on the water. His former crew, brother Russell Johnston, sailed Vinca, formerly Trevor Bell's boat. Russell sailed with his son, Luke, bringing the Johnston family fleet, which includes patriarch Ron, who sails with grandson Ben Speed, to five.

Some boats did not make it out onto the water this season, including Chris Giaquinto's Helen Joy, John Gilliard's Xtremely Sinister and Ken Caldwell's Ten.

The first race of the season was held under almost ideal conditions, with a 10 to 15 knot easterly, on a run-out tide. Craig described it as a "perfect day with a nice bit of wind". The second and fourth races were abandoned.

The third race was the first tightly-contested championship race, with just 23 seconds between first, Totally Sinister, and third Uncle Norm. Tranquil was second.

Race 5 was held in a southerly of at least 25 knots. It also resulted in the only man overboard of the season. Tempo, Peter Dallas and Ian Campbell, was leading. Accounts differ, but there is no disputing Ian ended up in the water. The second boat, Aeolian, Darren and Kylie Chignell, went out of its way to contact a club support boat. It probably cost them the race: Aeolian came third, one minute 12 seconds after the first placed boat. Tranquil won that race, with Annette second.

Race 6, the second championship race, was won by Totally Sinister, with Tranquil second and Uncle Norm third.

2022 brought more rain and some lighter weather. Annette, Ron Johnston and Ben Speed, won race 7, a handicap, with Vinca second, making a good showing for the Johnston family. Tempo was third.

Race 8 was a championship race held in a 15 knot nor-easter. Tranquil crossed the line a mere seven seconds ahead of Totally Sinister, followed one minute later by Uncle Norm.

Race 9, a handicap race, was held in a fresh southerly of more than 25 knots. Aeolian won, 20 seconds ahead of Merlot, Peter McSullea and Peter Deall. Murphy's Law came in third.

The forecast for Race 10 was for a southerly reaching 20 knots with light rain. The latter part was right. The wind swung around the compass, occasionally dying completely. Uncle Norm, which excels in light conditions, crossed the finish line first. Only five boats finished – the last finisher, Vinca, pushed right up against the time limit to drift across the finish line.

Race 11 was a handicap race, held in overcast conditions with a varying south to south easterly breeze that reached a maximum of five knots at times, with a strong ebb tide. Tranquil won, with Merlot second and Murphy's Law third.

Race 12 was a championship held under regular La Nina conditions of heavy rain and very light winds. The course was easterly, with a strong ebb tide and a strong surface run off from the recent rains flowing the other way. The water was filthy, brown and opaque and carrying leaves and street rubbish. One rain squall was so heavy the starter crew described it as a white curtain coming down, obscuring the fleet. Uncle Norm won the close-fought race, Totally Sinister was second and Tranquil third.

Race 13 was abandoned, but the conditions for Race 14 made up for the previous weeks, with a blue sky at last, and a shifting 8 to 10 knot east/nor'easter, though the water was still muddy from the heavy rains. A handicap, it was won by Totally Sinister, Aeolian second and Uncle Norm third.

Race 15 was the fifth and final championship race. It was won by Uncle Norm, with Tranquil second and Totally Sinister third. Totally Sinister was the overall winner.

The morning of Race 16, a handicap, brought torrential rain and no wind to speak of. By the time the boats had drifted to the start line, the wind was a gentle five knot east/south easterly. Murphy's Law was the first off, and lead the entire race. Totally Sinister was second and Annette third.

Race 17, a scratch start, was held in a south westerly, starting off Balmain between Cockatoo and Snapper Islands. It is not often sailed, and resulted in some confusion amongst the fleet. Totally Sinister was first over the line, followed by Tranquil, with Merlot third.

Race 18, the last race of the season, was a scratch start. There were morning showers but it lifted in time for the race. The wind was E/NE, around 8 knots, and it was an ebb tide, exacerbated by the run-off from the heavy rainfall during the week.

Once again Totally Sinister, Tranquil and Uncle Norm battled for the lead for most of the race, with Hironnelle, Peter Barnes and Geoff Smith, running fourth.

Totally Sinister, the scratch boat and club champion, crossed the finish line first. Tranquil rounded the last buoy barely ahead of Uncle Norm, but Uncle Norm on the windward side, overtook Tranquil and crossed the line second. Tranquil was third, followed by Hironnelle, Murphy's Law, Annette and Vinca.

Peter Dallas and Ian Campbell have retired from sailing, though Ian has offered to crew the support boat occasionally. Peter has sailed at DSC for a decade, first in Kozi, and then in

Tempo. Ian joined the club several years ago. Tempo has been sold to Greg Forrest, who plans to sail at DSC next season.

Ken Nagle was once again an exemplary race official, ably supported by Denise Walsh and Mandy Wills. They endured some difficult conditions, from winds that swung around in the minutes before finalising the course, to driving rain and long waits for the fleet to finish in a dying wind.

Final results for Season 2021/22

Championship: Totally Sinister 1, Tranquil 2, Uncle Norm 3.

Season Point Score: Murphy's Law 1, Tranquil 2, Totally Sinister 3.

Fastest Point Score: Uncle Norm 1, Totally Sinister 2, Tranquil 3.

Spring Point Score: Tranquil 1, Murphy's Law 2, Annette 3.

Summer Point Score: Totally Sinister 1, Annette 2, Murphy's Law 3.

Don Jelfs Point Score: Tranquil 1, Tempo 2, Murphy's Law 3.

Jack Gilliard Point Score: Tranquil 1, Totally Sinister 2, Uncle Norm 3.



Totally Sinister



Murphy's Law

