

2013 QUEENSLAND FLYING FIFTEEN

CHAMPIONSHIP: The 2013 Championships were hosted by Tin Can Bay Yacht Club on the weekend 16 & 17 March. A fleet of 10 boats contested the 5-race event, and though the fleet was small, it was big on quality, with the entry of the 2011 World Championship-winning boat Sake (3972) in the hands of skipper, Adam Kingston, and reigning 2012 Queensland Champion Bubbles (3767) skippered by TCBYC commodore, Ken Bubb.

With the forecast promising south-easterly breezes, a major wind shift to the north-east necessitated relaying the course, but the regatta got underway on time in an ideal 10 knot north-east sea breeze. The fleet's eagerness to get away saw Sake (3972) called on an individual recall after being pushed OCS by Bubbles (3767) at the start of race 1. Sailing the short trapezoidal course, Sake was unable to regain the ground lost and Bubbles took first blood in the Championship ahead of Larry Bardsley's Turning Vehicle (3245).

Race 2 saw the sea breeze increase to 15 knots and combined with a deceptively strong ebb tide, the sea state kicked up, creating conditions which saw running the banks the favoured option. Sailing the long trapezoidal course, Sake showed the fleet a clean transom to take the win from Bubbles, with Turning Vehicle finishing 3rd.

The breeze softened for Race 3 and in lighter 8-knot north-easterlies, Sake again won the start in the last race of the day, sailed on the short windward/leeward course. The ebb tide still made running the banks the favoured option on the downwind legs. While Flying Fossils blotted their copybook by hitting the bricks not once, but twice on the last windward work, nothing could stop Sake taking a second win from Bubbles, with Turning Vehicle again finish-

Day 2 of the regatta delivered cloudless blue skies ... and a steady 8-knot south-west breeze. With the course set, the fleet headed out onto Tin Can Inlet, only to find the breeze softening to nothing in the middle of the course, while a 8-10 knot northerly set in at the northern end and the south-westerly prevailed at the southern end. The unanswered questions were whether the northerly would penetrate down the Inlet to the southern end of the course and how long this would take. With no other option, the AP flag went up the mast until the northerly reached the starting area.

After a 30-minute postponement, Race 4 on the short trapezoidal course finally got underway. Sake again won the start in very soft conditions, then ran into a solid northerly 200 metres up the course and was never headed. The northerly wind direction made it difficult to set a true windward/leeward leg and all boats managed to lay the windward mark in one tack. The run down to the leeward mark turned into a reach that saw Sake extended her lead, while the first leg of the second lap of the trapezoid put the boats on a very fast shy reach to the first windward mark. Sake took the win from Bubbles and Bruce Whan's Flying Fossils (3306).

For Race 5, the windward mark and wing were eased to the north, to realign the course in the 15-knot northerly breeze. Sailing the short trapezoidal course, Sake again showed the fleet a clean transom, with Bubbles finishing second ahead of Think BIG (3257).

At the presentation, Sake collected the winner's spoils and was crowned the 2013 Queensland Flying Fifteen Champion. Turning Vehicle took out the Silver division, while Secret Fifteen (1398) took out the Classic Division. Corang (2912) took out Handicap honours. Of the "novelty prizes", Flying Fossils took out the Navigator's Award for their exploits on sandbanks, and Final Fling (3489) took out the "Tail End Charlie" Award for finishing 10th.

2013 F15 States - Open— Provisional Result— Entries: 10— Races Sailed: 5

Sail No	Boat name	Owner	Points	Place	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
3972	Sake	Adam Kingston	4	1	2	1	1	1	1
3767	Bubbles	Ken Bub	7	2	1	2	2	2	2
3245	Turning Vehicle	L Bardsley	14	3	3	3	3	5	5
3306	Flying Fossils	B Whan	18	4	6	6	5	3	4
3257	Think Big	F Wouda	19	5	5	5	6	8	3
1398	Secret Fifteen	G Williamson	21	6	4	7	4	7	6
3709	Ghost Magic	Peter Croft	22	7	7	4	7	4	7
2386	Yandina	C Howell	30	8	8	8	8	6	10
2912	Corang	J Kratzman	36	9	10	9	10	9	8
3489	Final Fling	R Yeeles	37	10	9	10	9	10	9

For full results and photographs please visit - <http://tcbyachtclub.wix.com/tcbyacht-club>

