



2021 Dolls Point Classic Race Report

Sutherland Shire Canoe Club / Dolls Point Paddlers beavered away for months to ensure the 2021 Dolls Point Classic was our best event yet, especially since all our 2020 events were cancelled either due to extreme weather conditions or Covid. The race committee was joined by a big band of volunteers early on Saturday 8 May to get the course and event areas set up, oversee parking and general meet and greet duties.



For the first time in the Harbour Racing Series paddlers received both an e-briefing and a video briefing. Feedback about the video briefing was very positive. The challenge is now set for the other HRS races to also do a video briefing.

<https://www.facebook.com/dollspointpaddlers/videos/826858107908767>

The weather was a cracker! The wind was only slight and the temp mild enough to be perfect for paddling. The swell coming through the heads forming up some nice waves around Dolls point. Over near the runway it was a little bit bumpy with the bounce back from the runway wall but nothing a Harbour Series paddler can't handle. On the way back from the end of the runway, paddlers were met with the outgoing tide from the Georges River which meant that anyone who went left towards Towra point had a hard time fighting across to Dolls Point. Paddlers who stayed towards the right were able to catch some swells towards the finish.

83 paddlers registered for the event with 76 paddlers in 72 craft racing on the day.

14 clubs were represented. 11 paddlers chose not to represent a club.

12% of the starters were female.

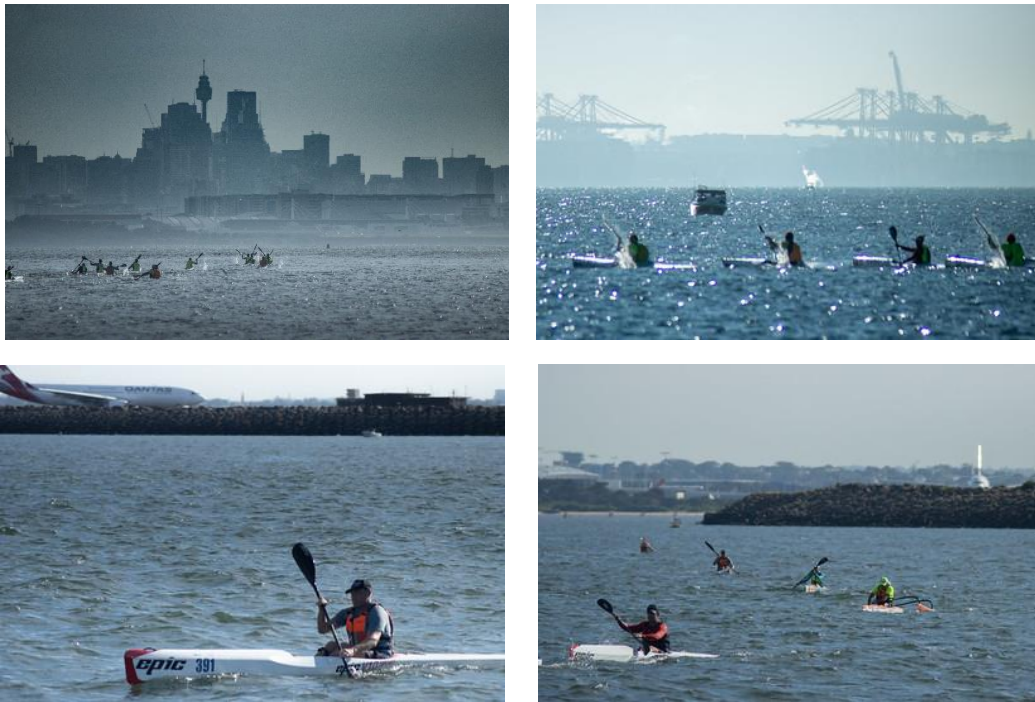
There was: only 1 junior who was a double partner with a Vet paddler; 4 doubles and 1 outrigger.

There were no spec ski entrants.

Race start went smoothly with the 3 waves off and racing on time. Thanks Tony H for overseeing race start.



The Sydney CBD, Port Botany and airport backdrop makes this race unique.



But that's not all that's unique about this race. Dolls Point Paddlers love paddling here because, when the conditions are right, the waves roll in at the Dolls Point groyne. And that's what they did on race day proving to be a distraction for the regular DPP paddlers and adding a bit of a challenge for the other paddlers.



Several DPP Paddlers couldn't resist catching a wave or 2.



The 3 safety boats were kept busy monitoring the paddlers especially the small number of competitors who were unused to the bumpy conditions around the Point and the airport. While the safety boat crews had to assist a few paddlers to remount, it was pleasing to see that most of the paddlers who went for a swim could quickly remount themselves.

Quotes from some of the competitors:

'Catching a wave was a must during or after the race, shared by a handful of starters'



'A fun and relaxing race'



'Best race ever'



'The winner on the day was paddling Botany Bay'

Shadi Samir from the Burley Griffin club definitely pushed himself out of his comfort zone but, despite being escorted home by the IRB, Shadi wins the prize for the biggest smile when he crossed the finish line.



Race Summary (Webscorer Results)

Short Course – 28 paddlers participated in the short course event in 22 skis and 3 doubles. (3 entrants were DNS'ed)

The father son double of Matt and Rafferty Sheather from the Cronulla Sutherland Kayak Club set a cracking time taking out line honours as well as the short course fastest double and fastest male categories. Michele Parker from the Illawarra Canoe club was the short course's fastest female.

Short Course	Winner	Winning time	Total racers
► Overall	MatthewSheather/RaffertySheather	51:55.1	25
► Female	Michele Parker	1:03:08.3	4
► Ski - Single (50+)	Michele Parker	1:03:08.3	4
► Male	MatthewSheather/RaffertySheather	51:55.1	19
► Other - Single - All ages	Bernard Williams	1:05:53.4	2
► Ski - Double (Vet/Junior)	MatthewSheather/RaffertySheather	51:55.1	1
► Ski - Single (40+)	Craig Taylor	59:18.5	2
► Ski - Single (50+)	Adam Lynch	57:10.8	8
► Ski - Single (60+)	Ian Heath	56:45.9	5
► Ski - Single (U18)	Noah Lynch	56:57.9	1
► Female/Male	SamStanford/JakiEdwards	54:44.2	2
► Ski - Double (19+)	SamStanford/JakiEdwards	54:44.2	1
► Ski - Double (50+)	CharlKellermann/GondaKellermann	1:04:10.8	1

Long Course – 48 paddlers participated in the long course event in 45 skis, 1 outrigger and 1 double. (2 paddlers were DNF'ed; 4 entrants were DNS'ed). The overall winner was Ben Constable from the

Cronulla Sutherland Kayak Club. The fastest female on the long course was Montannah Murray from Kiama Paddlers.

Long Course	Winner	Winning time	Total racers
‣ Overall	Ben Constable	1:06:56.7	47
‣ Female	Montannah Murray	1:14:32.4	4
‣ Ski - Single (19+)	Montannah Murray	1:14:32.4	1
‣ Ski - Single (40+)	Phillipa Le Roux	1:24:37.7	1
‣ Ski - Single (50+)	Julia Ong	1:41:05.0	1
‣ Ski - Single (60+)	Rozanne Green	1:40:36.1	1
‣ Male	Ben Constable	1:06:56.7	42
‣ Outrigger - Single - All ages	Matthew Spies	1:23:48.6	1
‣ Ski - Single (19+)	Casey Haynes	1:07:16.0	7
‣ Ski - Single (40+)	Ben Constable	1:06:56.7	11
‣ Ski - Single (50+)	Dan Collins	1:08:07.5	18
‣ Ski - Single (60+)	Bruce Moller	1:14:28.8	5
‣ Female/Male	PaulineFindlay/TrevorNichols	1:11:19.4	1
‣ Ski - Double (40+)	PaulineFindlay/TrevorNichols	1:11:19.4	1



Happy volunteers, happy event



A final quote from Race Director, Mark Sundin: he *'was very happy that nobody behaved like a knob.'*

Annette Mathews

2021 Dolls Point Classic Race Manager
Vice President Sutherland Shire Canoe Club