

The 2017 – 2018 Lane Cove 12ft Sailing Skiff Club season is shaping up to be a goodie!

Throughout the off season there has been plenty of work done including a “full rub back to bare carbon” from the new arrival to the class. from 18ft skiffs. Jimmy Beck, former 18ft skiff sailor and co have brought the old Acer skiff. The boat has been renamed after securing a sponsorship deal with “Shu Styx” engineering in Silverwater. The boat has been brought back from Queensland after a brief holiday in the sunshine state. Jimmy will be sailing with his Son and also friend Warren. Apparently, there has been a slight hold up with the paint job after the unofficial 12ft skiff regatta was held during Airlie race week.



Another newcomer to the class is Andrew of Chapman High Performance Sailing. Andrew sailing a laidback program with his brother Will whom have purchased the old Blockbuster. She has been treated to a full set of new rags and go-fast bits to bring it into the mix and are both looking forward to competing back at their home club. A combination to be reckoned with.

“Handful” has been hard at work doing boat modifications to last season’s modifications. Fingers crossed they work out the second time around.

Big Foot has had a name change to a new sponsor of "Form Civil" but that is not all that has changed. A new 2nd rig kite along with a full paint job and hull repairs should sort out the off-season prep work.



"Hey Charger" is making the change to carbon rod rigging which most of the 12ft Skiff Fleet has now adopted and are not turning back. They hope this is enough to beat "Wolfie" from Skoll as often as possible. This might be achievable as Wolfies only modifications in the off season has been moving to a new house although a new high modulus oval section No1 mast put together at the end of last season might be enough to hold him out.

"Chapman High Performance Sailing" will continue to use their many years of experience to mix it up with the young guns. Their motto is "at our age, you just have to keep moving". A new set of 3rd rig sails are also being cut as we speak.



“Slippery when Wet” have shown they have “the stuff” after crew Zacks first season in 12ft Skiff. The plan for the upcoming season is to keep improving and having fun, which is always the aim of the game.



“Space Junk” skipper and crew had very different ideas, crew went on a long overseas holiday while the skipper has been hitting the pool for swimming training. We are told this has nothing to do with trying to recover from a capsiz.



The current 12ft Skiff Interdominion, Australian National and NSW State Champions who call LC12'SSC home are looking forward to sailing as much as possible and have fun doing it. “Sydney Sailmakers” will continue the same crew combination and I’m sure there are a few surprises happening in the background.

“Gizmo” is ready to go for the season as soon as the winter maintenance program concludes. This included refurbishing all 3 spinnaker poles, a new centreboard case (after hitting a slow-moving sea cow) and perhaps some new sails to replace the crew sized hole in the 2nd mainsail.

Another new boat launched last season, “Terms and Conditions” has had an outstanding first season, but boat work is never done. Some minor tweaks to the take up systems and fine tuning some rigs including carbon rigging. A stiffer rudder box is on order as no one likes a loose rudder box.

“The Bird” is happy with the boat maintenance so it’s off to the slopes in search of some skiing with a bit of Airlie race week thrown in for good measure. No doubt there will be some boat races while on tour.

“Vintage” is preparing in fine 12ft skiff style. It started with a plan for 100 push ups per day. Along with ideas of a new big rig, another interesting addition is the carbon fibre buoyancy float on the stern. Perhaps it’s the latest “must have” modification or maybe those 100 push ups would have been a BETTER idea? Only time will tell.

“Panadol Rapid” has been getting into the off-season spirits but not so much in the way of boat work but more by making sure the maxis are going in the right direction.

The “Your Move Conveyancing” program is running fashionably late but is gearing up to repair last season’s wear and tear. YMC has secured a rookie crew for this season but I’m sure that won’t hold them back. They aspire to compete in the Interdominions where Australia verses New Zealand in an annual event which are being held next time in Auckland, New Zealand in January 2018.

By James Birdsall