

Bondi Icebergs Captain's Report

AUGUST 2019

August was a packed month, with a party of 37 Bergs and supporters heading to San Francisco for our bi-annual visit with our sister club the South End Rowing Club. The challenge for our Members was to swim the Golden Gate Bridge from south to north and Alcatraz from "The Rock" back to the SERC Clubhouse at Fisherman's Wharf. Alan Gow did a fantastic job with great support from many Bergs, making this trip a huge success. It was great to see our Club President Benn Dullard on hand and still with enough energy in the tank to thank SERC for the incredible hospitality given to all Icebergs once again.

BONDI HOST THE POLAR BEARS AND SEA LIONS FOR THE JOE DILLON TROPHY

To get the month of August started, the Bergs hosted Cronulla and Bulli for the annual 3-Way Swim for the Joe Dillion Trophy which features a four-person relay consisting of the Captain and President (or closest to) and the youngest and oldest club members on the day. It was a close tussle before Cronulla stormed ahead with just over a lap to go to take the trophy off the Bergs hands for the first time in five years. All three Clubs enjoyed one of Steve Goddard's scrumptious chicken burgers on the pool deck, before heading upstairs to the Bergs clubroom for some refreshments, speeches and the traditional fines.

BERGS HEAD DOWN WOLLONGONG CITY SURF CLUB FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS

In what can be described as a special day for both iconic Clubs, the Icebergs and Wollongong City broke with tradition, with the Bergs headed down south for the annual Noel Schubert and Ted Tobin Brace Relays, but this time female swimmers from both Clubs were involved. This addition was well overdue, and the day was a huge success, with big numbers from both Clubs turning out, in particular the women. It was a great sight at both ends of the pool, as eight lanes were filled with mixed teams of ten-plus swimmers powering up and down the pool. The one tradition that was kept was that the Noel Schubert Relay once again finished in a dead heat.

Wollongong were very confident heading into the Ted Tobin Brace with two young swimmers in their ranks, but the mood changed when two of the Bergs stalwarts, Life Member Joel Maybury and Ben Cush rocked into the Continental pools. Joel once again got the Bergs to a great start against a very quick 20-year-old, before Cush powered home to give the Bergs a substantial victory. The presentation was held back at the Surf Club where Wollongong put on a delightful chicken lunch. Bergs Life Member Phil Robinson, who was joined by his wife Sue on this trip and were both part of the original trips to the Gong many years ago, spoke about the great bond between our two Clubs. Also on hand was Noel Schubert's daughter Maggie, who presented the Trophy which is dated all the way back to 1962 to female representatives from both Clubs, with Bergs Director Lindsay Dawson accepting on our behalf.

50 METRE AND 40 METRE POINT SCORE TABLES

As we head into the final month of the season and only a couple of swims remain where members can obtain points, each of the three divisions are closely contested. Usually at this time of the year it will come down to which member hasn't had three wins and hasn't lost too much time and can still jag a first place or any places.

In the 50 metre point score Stuart Foote (37 pts.) has a two-point lead over Josip Brajkovic (35 pts.), with Arnie Ganson, Jean Harwood, and Anna Palozzi right on their heels, all with 33 points.

The 50 Years and over, 40 metre division sees Peter Aston (38 pts.) ahead of Alan Gow (36 pts.) and John Irwin (36 pts.) with Nigel Doyle sitting in fourth. Greg Parr (32 pts.), Angelina Kane (31 pts.) and Annie Parnell (31 pts.) will need to win every week if they are to make a late challenge.

Felicity Ng (36 pts.) is a young lady of many talents, she can not only make some of the best homemade condiments on deck days, she has a four-point buffer in the under 50 Years, 40 metre point score. Still in contention are Andrew Farley (32 pts.), female Jamie Berry (32 pts.), while Jennifer Graham, Losoya Harkin and Grant Stevens who are all on 30 points will need plenty of luck to contest Felicity for the honours.

AUGUST TABLE RELAYS

The 2019 Table Relays have been the most contested for many years, with multiple teams all in contention heading into the final round which will be held on Closing Day. The Sharks who slipped last month, have moved up four places after just pipping out A-Team by the smallest of margins to take first place for the August relays. The Phoenix get a little shaky this time of the season and their eleventh placing is testament to this, but they are still on the top spot by just three points, with the Budgie Strugglers, Crashers and Polyglots all within striking distance.

In regard to the most disappointing team of 2019 the 'Banner Boys', as it may be there last swim on closing day. There has been plenty of talk behind the scenes of a breakaway group, and the pressure is on their leader Terry Parson and his erratic leadership and hopefully for Terry the whispers are unfounded, which is usually the case at the Icebergs.

AUGUST RESULTS

Pos.	Team	Time	Pos.	Team	Time	Pos.	Team	Time
1.	Sharks	+0.40	7.	Budgie Strugglers	-2.12	13.	North Bondi SS	+5.75
2.	A-Team	-0.69	8.	Whisky Business	+2.53	14.	All Sorts	-6.25
3.	Flying Fish	+1.09	9.	Beaut. See You Next Tues.	+2.90	15.	Icy Poles	+6.53
4.	Hindenbergs	-1.10	10.	Survivors	+3.06	16.	Banner Boys	+13.31
5.	Stingers	-1.56	11.	Phoenix	-3.59	17.	Snappers	-15.75
6.	Crashers	-1.81	12.	Polyglots	+3.84			

OVERALL STANDINGS

Pos.	Team	Points	Pos.	Team	Points	Pos.	Team	Points
1.	Phoenix	48	=7.	Whisky Business	37	13.	Icy Poles	29
2.	Sharks	45	=7.	Flying Fish	37	14.	All Sorts	22
=3.	Budgie Strugglers	41	9.	Hindenbergs	36	15.	Beaut. See You Next Tues.	20
=3.	Crashers	41	=10.	Survivors	33	16.	Rainbow Warriors	16
=5.	Polyglots	40	=10.	Stingers	33	17.	Snappers	9
=5.	A Team	40	12.	North Bondi SS	30	18.	Banner Boys	8

SOLID BERGS TOURING PARTY WILL HEAD TO PERTH FOR 2019 AUSSIE TITLES

Over 80 Icebergs representative swimmers and supporters will head far west and base themselves in Cottesloe, WA for the 2019 Australian Winter Swimming Championships. The Club will look to hold on to the overall point score trophy but will get strong competition from host Cottesloe Crabs and rivals Harbord Frigid Frogs. Many Bergs will be looking to win back-to-back Gold Medals in their age category, while some Bergs who are moving up a division, will also be right in the mix for medals. We look forward to a great three days with a number of official Club events organized.

Ben Morrissey
Club Captain

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