



***flying fifteen international - western australia  
(inc)***

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[www.ffiwa.com](http://www.ffiwa.com)

15 April 2025

### **Presidents' Report**

The last 12 months have been a time of consolidation and growth for FFIWA. Our membership numbers have dropped slightly following our record membership year experienced as a result of hosting the World Titles in 2023 but remain higher than in the two years preceding that. It is pleasing to see boats changing hands and new members enjoying the fun and excitement that Flying 15 sailing can bring. Greg Leaversuch and Peter Groom have both bought new boats in anticipation of participating in this year's world titles at Weymouth, and this has cascaded down to other boats changing hands, which is keeping the fleet fresh and ever-more competitive. It is also great to see increasing participation in FFIWA events from boats based at Port Bouvard. We welcome them and look forward to being able to help them grow their fleet.

From a financial perspective, the association remains in a sound financial position and returned a small surplus last year. We continue to look for opportunities to use our substantial cash reserves to help support members and grow the fleet.

To that end, in the last 12 months, we assisted the SoPYC section to jointly fund purchase of a Flying Fifteen for them to use as a "scholarship boat" to be leased for a nominal fee to a deserving individual for a 12-month period to allow them to experience Flying 15 sailing when they otherwise would not have been able to afford to. While the utilisation of this boat has not met expectations this year, SoPYC believes that the concept is sound and will look for a new lessee for next season. As a spinoff benefit for FFIWA, the lessee has helped to revamp our website and it now better matches expectations regarding look and feel, and is also considerably more technically robust than the previous version.

We have also introduced, at the suggestion of Tim Few, our Secretary, a program allowing new ordinary (boat owner) members of FFIWA to apply for reimbursement up to \$500 for expenses they have incurred in getting assistance from an accredited coach to help them with boat set-up or coaching. Applications must be made within 12 months of joining the association, and expenses must have already been incurred and paid for. This is intended to assist new members to fast-track their learning journey in coming to grips with their new Flying Fifteen.

We remain keen to increase our support for our country clubs and have offered funding to them to support training and other club-driven initiatives that will assist them in growing participation in Flying Fifteen sailing.

Other possibilities to grow the class are also being explored, and suggestions from members are welcome.

The committee for the coming year is very stable with one addition to the committee. Andrew Colquhoun has expressed a desire to stand down as the SoPYC fleet representative, and when the

SoPYC section has elected a replacement, the new fleet representative will most likely take his place on the FFIWA Committee. Tim Few continues to do an excellent job as Secretary, despite his work commitments. Greg Howell is also doing an admirable job as State Treasurer, ensuring that our funds are well looked after. Peter Mudford, assisted by Neil White and Clive Beeton continue to ensure that we are all compliant with the class rules, while keeping the committee up to date on measurement issues and proposed rule changes. Seth Eggleston has done an excellent job of coordinating our activities with those of RFBYC, including those associated with the 2024 State Titles. And Humphrey Hale continues to offer sage words of common-sense advice.

The 63rd State Championships were held at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club over the Easter weekend in 2024. A fleet of 33 boats participated in the event, which was sailed in mostly light conditions.

Seven races were held over three days and the final placings for the Championship were:

- 1st Best Foot Forward – Nick Jerwood and Brad Sheridan (SoPYC)
- 2nd Firefly – Philippa Packer and Dean McAullay (RFBYC)
- 3rd Tuffan Up – David Yu and Chris Nelson (RFBYC)

This means that Nick has now won the State Titles 9 times, 6 of those wins being in the last 7 years which is an outstanding achievement.

Consistency results were closely contested. Jen Sims and Warrren Hastings in Yes, No, Maybe from SoPYC found some form on the last day to win the Consistency trophy.

For the first time since 2019, we had a Sliver boat in the fleet, and the prize for first Silver boat went to Harry Miller from Geraldton Yacht Club.

Philippa Packer from RFBYC won the trophy for first female skipper, and Anne Knowles from SoPYC won the trophy for first female crew.

Thanks are due to Seth Eggleston and RFBYC for an excellently run event.

The 2025 National Titles were sailed at Davey's Bay Yacht Club in Victoria. Six Western Australian crews participated in the regatta, 3 from SoPYC, 2 from Geraldton YC and 1 from Esperance Bay YC. Congratulations to Nick Jerwood and Brad Sheridan from SoPYC who comfortably won the regatta with "picket fence" score card of 1<sup>st</sup> places in all 7 races. The battle for the remaining podium placings was much more hard-fought, with Mike and Paul Dunbar from SoPYC getting up for second place in the regatta. John Hassen and Kevin Griffiths from SoPYC did an admirable job in attempting to defend the title they won in 2024 and finished an honourable 5<sup>th</sup> overall. David Swan and Gordon McWilliams from Esperance finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place, Peter Groom and John Muscio from Geraldton finished a creditable 16<sup>th</sup> in their new boat at its first competitive outing on the water, and Mark Millman and Nigel Moffat from Geraldton finished just behind them in 17<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all.

The 2024/2025 Tally Hobbs series was sailed at South of Perth Yacht Club on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 February 2025 with 6 races sailed over the 2 days. An innovative schedule which saw sailing start late on the Saturday afternoon and conclude on Saturday morning, combined with an active social program, saw 27 boats participate in the regatta. Yet again, Nick Jerwood, this time with Ian Lane at the front of the boat, from SoPYC in Best Foot Forward took out the regatta, winning four of the six races. Hamish Carnachan and Peter Mudford from RFBYC finished second. David Yu and Chris Nelson from RFBYC finished third overall and won one of the two races that Nick and Ian didn't.

Several Flying Fifteens ventured down from Perth to participate in Busselton Race Week in February 2025. By all accounts, a great time was had by all, both on and off the water. Although not an official FFIWA event, we are happy to support the event and encourage others to consider participating in the regatta in 2026.

At this stage, but subject to final confirmation, the next National Titles will be held in Adelaide, at a yacht club to be decided, between January 11 and 16, 2026. This is about as close as we can get to WA without the titles being hosted there. I encourage you all to consider participating. Further information on the regatta will be provided as soon as it comes available.

Queensland are due to host the Nationals the following year, and preliminary discussions are being held regarding the timing of the event. Typically, the stormy January weather in South East Queensland is not good for sailing, and so options to hold the regatta either earlier or later in the season are being explored. There is also the issue of avoiding potential conflict with the 2027 Worlds (to be held in Hong Kong, at this stage) to be considered.

Our next State Titles are scheduled to be held at South of Perth Yacht Club over the Easter weekend in 2026.

Sandy Dunn

**President FFIWA**