

Fenn Cup 2 – Pre-Race Report –

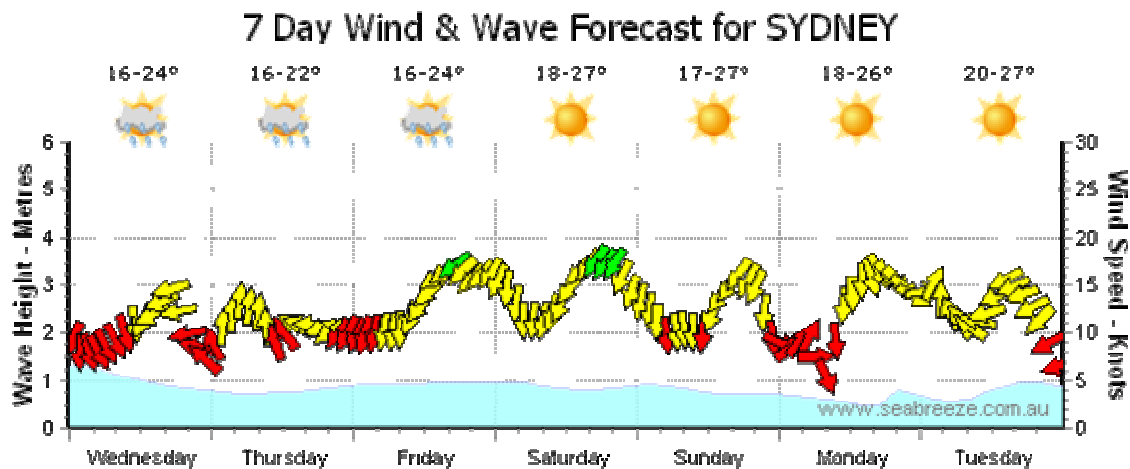
Conditions look to die for! Saturday 31st Oct 2009



Weather Update

20 knots downwind

Weather Forecasts



Forecast Issued at 10:01am, next update at 4:15pm

[Reverse Graph Colours](#)

The line up

Will this weekend be best field ever assembled in Australian waters made up entirely of the top Aussie paddlers? You be the judge.

Fenn Cup 1 saw what at that time was regarded as the best ever field. Take all the guys from that race and add the following.

Dave Kissane, Tate Smith, Kurt "Sun Blocker" Tutt, Matty Rees, Kirk Jarrott, Dean Mercer a host of unknown Viccos making the trip North and a bunch of the Queenslanders who are keen also to make their mark in ocean racing.

Last race saw a tight battle between Jeremy Cotter, Tim Jacobs and Shannon Eckstein. These three are primed to go head to head to head again. An unfortunate visit to rock shelf by Tony Shumacher last race may have also seen him mixing it with the trio.

A betting man would put his money on one of these four but when you look at the rest of the lineup it makes the decision a difficult one.

With the predicted strong downwind you can be sure that the older brigade will make their presence felt at the front. Light tailwinds at last week's ocean series event saw some of those guys move a little closer to the front. Even so the race was clearly Tim's with Murray (now getting fitter) very close behind.

The Cotter/Jacobs battle this weekend has got everyone talking. These two are the standouts but don't be surprised if any of the above mentioned sneak through for a major upset.



Jeremy Cotter, Shonnon Ecktein and Tim Jacobs



Photo: Beachhead.com.au

Eckstein factor

One name that has been prominent in distance ski paddling over the last couple of years finishes with Eckstein. More so Caine but due to this young fellow's big move to triathlon the other (Shannon) is set to take over where his younger sibling left off.

The famous Cotter/Eckstein one two which has delivered such misery to their rivals over the last couple of years is now a thing of the past. The Leyton Hewitt (Cotter) look alike will be busier than ever now in races as he now has to play a different game. Although this did not seem to effect him at the last race.



Shannon Eckstein

Photo: Beachhead.com.au



ASN Hotspot

What will be very interesting will be the ASN Hotspot. This will be within the first 500 meters of the race. When you look at this weekend's line up you might as well grab the finals list at the national kayak champs. With the exception of Kenny Wallace and Clint Robinson you have the fastest paddlers in country. Murray Stewart, Dave Smith, Tate Smith, Tony Shumacher, Nick Holt its a whos who of sprint paddling.



Murray Stewart

Photo: Beachhead

The girls are back

Kirsty Holmes back from a leisurely trip through the Carribbean and a couple of fun races took out last weekend's ocean series event. Holmes along with fellow Queenslander's Jasmin Kelly and Bernie Wallace will be keen to pay for their trip down by getting on the dias. Both Holmes and Kelly are previous Molokai champs in both ski and outrigger proving their toughness over the longer distance. Wallace finished a vreditable 2nd in the recent US Champs in only her second ocean racing event.

Fenn Cup 1 saw a record girls field with the ladies also racing for their very own hotspot. Cronulla's Kelly Jury stamped her mark on the spring taking it easily from duel Olympian Yanda Nossitter.





Jasmin Kelly

Photo: Beachhead.com.au

Race details

Judging by current predictions this will be the days lineup. To be confirmed on the day.

- 1pm Skoda Challenge and under 20s 8km out and back (Station Beach Palm Beach)
- 2.15 SUPs and paddleboards Palm Beach to Long Reef (Palm Beach Ocean Side)
- 2.45 Female and OC1s Station Beach to Long Reef (Palm Beach Pittwater Side)
- 3pm Fenn Cup Station Beach to Long Reef (Palm Beach Pittwater Side)

On day numbers for race direction update

- Doug 0410517076
- Yanda 0414454648
- Dean 0400389730



Presentations

Long Reef surf club from 4.30 onwards. Drinks and food available.

This event is made possible by the generous support of Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club.