

Roland Smith Ocean Race

SHORT HAUL

Organising Authority: Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club

Date: Saturday 15 April 2023

SISKA

Warning Signal: Double Handed 0855

Division 2 0900

Division 1 0905

CORINTHIAN

Start Area: To be advised in SSI's

Approximate Distance: 40 to 45 nautical miles

Safety: Category 4

Recommendation: ASSR for Lifejackets
5.01.1(d)(iii) A crotch strap or thigh straps fitted.

Trophies: IRC & PHS

Series: ORWA Siska Series and Short Haul Series
46th Farrawa Cup Series

Entry Fee: \$100

Entry Close: 1700 Thursday 6 April 2023

Race History

Named in honour of Roland Smith, Commodore of RFBYC from 1932 to 1935 and again from 1940 to 1942. In 1934 he was involved in the successful negotiation with the State Governor Sir James Mitchell, to approve the use of the prefix 'Royal' by the Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. He was both a yachtsman and a launch owner. In 1942 he was appointed commanding officer of HMAS Leeuwin II. This was the Naval Auxiliary Patrol unit based at RFBYC during World War II. On his power yacht "Pollyanna" he charted much of Rottnest Island, providing safe passage for other mariners and there is a memorial for him near Narrowneck, the Roland Smith Monument. He was a long serving member of the island's board of control and contributed much to the volunteer reforestation work until his death in 1972.

The Roland Smith Ocean Race returned to the racing calendar in 2015 as an 80nm Blue Water event which included an element of Rottnest Island in honour of the connection he had with the island. With the intention to raise the number of competitors and promote the sport to the local community the course has been changed for the 2019-2020 season. The race has been shortened to a coastal day race with the course focusing on the Perth northern beaches and the eastern end of Rottnest Island.

