

# Flying Fifteen Ramble

Sept. 14, 2023

*by Martin Herbert*

Thursday the 14th of September saw 80% of the Flying Fifteen Fleet at the club assemble for a harbour “Ramble”. In attendance were new club member Jill Oakes with Heather Sloat as crew, long time member Lawrie Neish with Jeremy as crew, Nicholas Sladen-Dew and Martin Herbert. The winds started fickle but built to a gentle SE breeze over the course of the afternoon. After some formation sailing off the docks for some drone footage, the fleet set off to circumnavigate Goat Island.



Here Jill and Heather navigate the gap between rocky islets and Goat with Nicholas in the background getting ready to tack and sail through. After taking a good look at the 7,000 square foot house under construction on the south end of the island the fleet broad reached down changing positions and keeping close together.



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The breeze filled in a little and allowed us to slip through the gap between Powder and Goat Island. A rather pretty schooner had been noted coming into the harbour so the tillers were dragged to windward and we ran down into Ganges. At the sea plane dock, there she was. I hove to so as to get a good look at her and also got this shot of Jill and Heather giving a close inspection.



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We eased off and ran down the rest of the harbour before turning and tacking out again. Tacking through a crowded harbour is a lot of fun and very good training for judging lay lines and boat handling. It is perfect in a boat as handy as a Flying Fifteen and gives a great sense of accomplishment when you get it right. One more bash to windward up to the five knot mark and then a short spinnaker reach and it was time to call it a day. Judging by the smiling faces at the dock we will likely to it again soon.



Martin Herbert,  
aboard the Kay D