

Smith and Tebbutt win Pam Golding Canals Winter Challenge

Phil Smith and Mathew Tebbutt are the 2017 champions of the recent 11th Pam Golding Properties Canals Winter Challenge. The pair finished in a time of 1:29:19, beating the winners of the last two years, Greg Louw and Rob Welsh, by 10 secs.

Hein Van Rooyen and Luke McNish were a further 6 secs back. The last boat in the front bunch was Richard Von Wildemann & Clint Hempel. Despite a low tide, race conditions were excellent and a field of 50 paddlers took part. The long course

race was fiercely contested by the front four boats over the full 20km. With no team being able to establish a secure lead and with the finish line fast approaching, it was Smith and Tebbutt who took the initiative over defending champions Louw and

Welsch to make a break for the finish with 500 metres to go.

Rounding the penultimate corner of the course and heading straight into the teeth of both the wind and current, Smith and Tebbutt dug deep to power away from what was left of the diamond and secure a well deserved maiden win. Jason Goedhals and Robert Lee won the sprint in the 2nd bunch, with the other three boats being Jason & Greg Aubin, Richard Arderne/Ricardo Ngcayisa, and Rob Sunter/Nienel Beyers.

This year a Guppy course over 2km was included, which gave young paddlers another opportunity to compete for medals.

The St Francis Paddling Club thanks race sponsor Pam Golding Properties, as well as Carbonology for again donating a new split shaft paddle as a raffle prize. The club also thanks QuaySide for generously providing gift certificates as prizes and for hosting the event and providing an excellent lunch.



Pam Golding's Richard Arderne, left, with all the podium winners



Pam Golding's Richard Arderne with event winners' Phil Smith and Mathew Tebbutt

St Francis ladies show true grit



St Francis Bay lady golfers show true grit in 2017 Ladies' League!
Ladies at the St Francis Bay Golf Club are always willing to take on a challenge and came third out of nine teams participating in the League!
The Ladies Committee thanks all players for their contribution, especially Carol Hensley, League Captain, for her meticulous organisation and encouragement.