

# "THE SIR ROSS SMITH" AEROPLANE RACE GAME



Prize, £10,000.  
By the Commonwealth Government.

THE GALLANT FOUR.  
PILOT—  
Capt. SIR ROSS MACPHERSON SMITH,  
M.C. (Bar), D.F.C. (two Bars), A.F.C.  
NAVIGATOR—  
Lieut. SIR KEITH MACPHERSON SMITH,  
Royal Air Force.  
MECHANICS—  
Sgt. J. M. BENNETT, M.S.M., A.F.M. (Bar)  
Sgt. W. H. SHIERS, A.F.M. (Bar).

THE FEAT.  
Left London, 8.55 a.m. Nov. 12, 1919  
Arrived Australia, 3.50 p.m. Dec. 10, 1919  
Distance Covered, 10,800 miles  
Time Occupied, 28 days  
Actual Flying Time, 135 hours  
Average speed, 80 m.p.h. per hour

MACHINE USED  
VICKERS-VIMY



## How to Play

# The Sir Ross Smith Aeroplane Race Game

2 to 4 players

### OBJECT

To be the first player to fly from England to Australia and back again.

### SETUP

Each player selects a playing piece and places it near the space marked 1 by England.

### GAME PLAY

Each player rolls the dice. The player with the highest number starts the play.

Each player throws the dice and moves along the flight route. Spaces that are marked by a coloured circle or grey space direct the player to move forward or back. Spaces 17 and 27 direct the player to follow a diversion from the main flight route.

The first player to reach 100 and return to England wins the game.



### Background History

'The Sir Ross Smith' Aeroplane Race Game was created in Sydney circa 1919 for players to relive the excitement of the 1919 Great Air Race from England to Australia. Prize money of £10,000 was offered for the first aircraft to arrive in 30 days or less. Six planes competed in this epic flight. South Australians, Ross Smith and Keith Smith were part of the winning team. They flew in a Vickers Vimy biplane making repairs en route with chewing gum.

This board game's flight path from England to Australia has some resemblance to the original flight route. However it includes diversions to Peking (Beijing), Aden and Madagascar, and a return flight to England to complete the game, all of which are variations to the path of the original race.

Want to find out more about the Great Air Race?

Visit [digital.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au](http://digital.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au)

State Library of South Australia: Children's Literature Research collection, *Sir Ross Smith aeroplane race game*, c1919 Games box 18.



### Equipment

1 x dice

4 x playing pieces

