

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL

RACEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS



POST EVENT NEWSLETER

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WHO SAID RACEBOARDS ARE DEAD

The recent Australian Raceboard National Championships delivered two spectacular days of sailing with a mix of light and high winds that tested the endurance and skill of the fleet. As event organiser it was pleasing to see a fleet of approximately 40 sailors battling it out. As a sailor in the fleet it was awesome fun to sail on this great patch of water amongst this skilled fleet.

On Saturday morning the forecast for the day was not looking spectacular with light easterlies predicted. As event organiser I was getting a bit worried. However, "Hughie" (the wind god) did not let us down as he delivered a pleasant 5 – 10 knot breeze that made for challenging sailing with many tactical duels throughout the fleet.



The first order of the day was the Junior sailing and Selection event to choose who would represent NSW at the Youth Nationals in January in Melbourne on the Bic Techno. Glen and Nick set a great course and got racing underway. It was fantastic to see the future of the sport out there strutting there stuff.

Once the junior racing was complete Stewart set a great "Z" course for the senior racing that saw some tactical upwind battles as well as some challenging down hill legs that required a lot of pumping in the light winds. To me at least, one of the best things about the racing on the Saturday was the great upwind competition and tacking duels. In the light shifty airs there was some great lifts to pick up that assisted in these battles to the top mark



A total of four races were run on the Saturday which was a challenge in the light winds. There is no doubt about it by the time the last race was run there were some sore hands from all the pumping. But guys, it was worth it to get the last one done as it allowed us to wrap up that little bit earlier on the Sunday.

At the conclusion of Sailing the BBQ was fired up and a few sausages and beers was had. It was great to see the whole fleet discussing the days racing and debating who was quicker than who and what the breeze would do on the Sunday.

Sunday arrived and brought with it the breeze and some hangovers from the night before. Two quick races were conducted in 10 – 15 knots and at last we were moving with pace. By the time race 3 and 4 came around the wind had picked up to 15 – 20 knots and the fun really started.

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Given that we were travelling so fast Nick had to extend the course so that we weren't completing it too quickly. Despite this, the winners were still doing the course in approximately 15 – 18 minutes and showed blistering speeds.

One of the new initiatives for the weekend was the silver fleet. This has not been done at our national championships before but to my mind was a great idea as it provides an opportunity for the newer sailors in the fleet to compete with the main fleet and rather than get too far behind sail a reduced course and finish at about the same time.

An all round great event, which can only get bigger and better with new Raceboards on the market and new sense of enthusiasm in the air and plenty of young talent on the rise.

RESULTS

A full copy of the results is attached to the rear of this newsletter. However, the winners in the different categories were as follows:

*Overall winner - James Grunfelder
7.5 Metre Division - James Grunfelder
10.5 metre Division - Byron McIlveen
Master - Byron McIlveen
Grand Master - Keith Single
Ancient Mariner - Martin Thearle
Woman - Alisha Kawalla
Junior - Brendon Jenkins*

Well done to all the above people.



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TEAM EFFORT

As usual with an event of this nature there were a number of people who contributed to ensuring that everything ran smoothly. The following people need our thanks and three cheers for their efforts:

Stewart and Bev Long

Fantastic course design and setting, making and brining the buoys as well as getting those great sausages for the BBQ on Saturday.

Nick Nelson

Great starts all weekend starts and overall assistance to myself during the event.

Glen Morrell

Organising and running the Junior sailing as well as assisting Nick with the starts.

Ron Jenkins and Neil McKinlay

Where would we be without there start and rescue/ photography boats.

Ross Kelly

As usual Ross the scorer extraordinaire was there to tabulate all the results and ensure that the drops were right.

Anita and Nicky

These two wonderful women kept the shore base in control while also documenting the results.

Bud Townsing – Windsurfing Sales

Thanks for providing the great Gun Sails raffle prizes that assisted in raising money to cover the event costs.

The Sanctuary Point Crew

Thanks for sharing you great patch of water with us.



EVENT PHOTOS

You may have been aware that we had a professional photographer at the event who took heaps of photos of everyone on Saturday and Sunday. I have seen all of the photos, some of which are in this newsletter, and can tell you that it is worth buying the CD of all photos from the event as they are fantastic.

If you did not put you name down for the photos at the event the photographers name and contact details are as follows:

Mark Campbell
4443-6456
www.actionpictures.com.au
mark@actionpictures.com.au

Cheers
Pat



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FEMALE CHAMPION - ALISHA KAWALLA

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OVERALL CHAMPION - JAMES GRUNFELDER