

2017 RL24 N.S.W. State Championship REPORT

The three heats of the NSW RL24 State Titles were sailed over two consecutive weekends in November 2017. Heats 1 & 2 were sailed on the 18th & 19th November 2017 at Illawarra Yacht Club in conjunction with their Lord Mayor's Regatta. The final heat of the 2017-2018 NSW State Championships was sailed on the following weekend, Sunday 26th November 2017 on Kogarah Bay and was hosted by the Kogarah Bay Sailing Club. A total of 6 RL24s sailed over the series.

Heat 1 on Saturday 18th November saw three RL24s start in a North Easterly wind that strengthened from 10 knots to 15 knots. At the start, *Ringleader* sailed by Colin Boylan, Amy Boylan and Jenyne Norris gained the best of the start and was leading well up the first work when disaster struck as the bottom rudder gudgeon sheered off. It was a quick drop the sails and motor back to the club house to pull *Ringleader* out of the water and replace the broken gudgeon. Ron Kerr sailing *Hello Sailor* with Scott Haig and Hamish Kerr capitalised on the withdrawal of *Ringleader* and quickly establish a comfortable lead over *Shaka* which was sailed by Robert Winn with crew Tim Boylan and Max Heggens. At the finish *Hello Sailor* had a 3 minute lead over *Shaka*.

Heat 2 on Sunday was a Passage Race around the whole of Lake Illawarra with an 11.00am start. An Easterly course was set and the start was close between all 3 RL24s. As the race progressed the fleet experienced wind direction changes to the North East then back to the east and then to the South east. Wind strength varied from 4-5 knots at the start, 10 knots on the first run, back to 3-4 knots on the second work, then up to 15 knots on the tight sky spinnaker run from the middle of the Lake right down to the southern end of the Lake to round the Oak Flats mark, then it was a long beat back to the Channel for a Club House Finish. The winds had lightened off again and the final work up the channel was challenging with up to 10 tacks required. *Ringleader* had its full crew compliment on board with Colin Boylan, Tim Boylan, Amy Boylan and Jenyne Norris. Robert Winn on *Shaka* had a full crew of Rebecca Winn, Judy Van Der Gest and Max Heggens and *Hello Sailor* had Ron Kerr, Hamish Kerr and Scott Haig on board. *Ringleader* establish a good lead on both *Hello Sailor* and *Shaka* at the first mark. On the first spinnaker run, *Hello Sailor* snuck past *Shaka* into second place and they held onto second for the remainder of the race. At the finish, *Ringleader* was 9 minutes ahead of *Hello Sailor* with *Shaka* about 1 minute 30 seconds behind *Hello Sailor*.

The **final Heat 3** of the NSW Titles was sailed on Kogarah Bay and hosted by Kogarah Bay Sailing Club. The Race Committee set a North East course which saw the fleet start in front of the club house and then sail to the top of Kogarah Bay as a windward beat. A short square run followed to a mark near Carss Park and then a tight reach past the club house all the way south to a mark at Captain Cook Bridge. From here it was a three quarter run up the Georges River to a mark at Tom Ugly's Bridge. After rounding this mark, it was a long work back past the club house to the mark at the top of the Kogarah Bay. All 4 RL24s racing on Kogarah Bay had a good close start. By the first mark *Treasure Island* sailed by James Stevens and his crew had gained a small lead over *Crescent* sailed by Tony Thoms and crew with *Ringleader* sailed by Colin Boylan and crew around third. *Shrek* sailed by Dave Robinson and his crew was round in 4th place. All boats were still close on the square run to Carss Park. On the tight reach to Captain Cook Bridge, *Treasure Island* put in some distance from *Crescent*, *Ringleader* and *Shrek*. On the first three quarter no boats carried spinnakers and the placings remained the same. The second lap saw the 4 RLs maintain their placings. Both *Treasure Island* and *Ringleader* carried spinnakers on the three quarter run between the bridges. On the final lap, both *Treasure Island* and *Crescent* pulled further ahead of *Ringleader* and *Shrek*. *Crescent*, a regular at Kogarah Bay, gained a little on *Treasure Island* on the final work to a club house finish. On corrected time in Heat 3, *Crescent* sailed by Tony Thoms and crew finished first with *Treasure Island* sailed by James Stevens and crew finishing second - a close 57 seconds behind. Third place went to *Ringleader* who was three minutes further back sailed by Colin Boylan and crew with *Shrek* sailed by Dave Robinson and crew in fourth place.

The final and overall placings for the 2017-2018 NSW State Championships were:

PLACE	BOAT NAME	SAIL NUMBER	SKIPPER	POINTS
1 st	<i>Ringleader</i>	234	Colin Boylan	7.75
2 nd	<i>Hello Sailor</i>	198	Ron Kerr	9.75
3 rd	<i>Shaka</i>	505	Robert Winn	12
4 th	<i>Crescent</i>	293	Tony Thoms	14.75
5 th	<i>Treasure Island</i>	505	James Stevens	16
6 th	<i>Shrek</i>	140	Dave Robinson	18

NEXT RL24 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS for 2018 - 2019 season.

At an owners/skippers meeting held on Sunday 26th November at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club, it was agreed that for next season the NSW State Championships would be conducted. Some discussion about 1) the number of races (3) including a passage style race; 2) holding the regatta on ONE weekend, and 3) the timing of the Regatta (before the Nationals) happened at the meeting after the Presentation.

All NSW owners will be contacted for input over the next few weeks to seek your input into the organisation of next week's State Titles.

So, Make sure you have your say about next years NSW State Titles and plan to participate in next season's titles.

45th NATIONAL RL24 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Illawarra Yacht Club will be hosting the 45th National RL24 Championships over the period Sunday 7th January 2018 through to Thursday 11th January 2018. There will be 3 short races on Sunday followed by 2 heats of the Nationals on each subsequent day except on Thursday when only 1 heat is scheduled. (This will also allow for the possibility of a re-sailed heat if needed.) A Presentation Dinner will conclude the Nationals on Thursday evening.

We need good support from NSW RL24s for the Nationals.

There is plenty of onsite space for Camping and Caravans. Please contact Colin for details and for making a site reservation. (Email is the best way: Boylan.colin@gmail.com)

Come along and join in the sailing as well as the family oriented social activities., including a Welcome BBQ on Sunday, a Bowls and pizza evening on Monday and the Presentation dinner on Thursday.

GET WELL

Martin O'Shannessy (*Octantis* #315) has been in hospital recently. He was unable to sail in the NSW State Titles this year but he is planning on being back on the water in December 2017 and to sail in the Nationals in January 2018. Get well Martin.