

## 2018 NSW RL24 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A small fleet of RL24s competed in the NSW States Championships over the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club.

The Commodore, Cliff Lewis and committee members made the visiting RL24s very welcome.

The fleet enjoyed some strong wind sailing on the 2 races on Saturday with wind strength averaging 18 knots with gusts to 22 knots coming out of the South in Heat 1 and similar wind strengths in Heat 2.

After a close start in Heat 1, local skipper Tony Toms sailing **Crescent** showed all how to sail in the fresh conditions with a close winning margin from Colin Boylan on **Ringleader** with Martin O'Shannessy sailing **Octantis** finishing in third place. Fourth place went to Michael Brindley and crew sailing **My Therapy**.

In Heat 2, Martin O'Shannessy and **Octantis** gained a great start and was first around the windward mark, followed closely by Tony Toms and **Crescent**. As the race progressed, Tony Toms shown some outstanding square running skills and gained the lead. **Ringleader** and **My Therapy** were close behind these two leading RL24s. The final results for Heat 2 on corrected time saw **Crescent** sailed by Tony Toms in first place, **Ringleader** sailed by Colin Boylan in second place, **Octantis** sailed by Martin O'Shannessy in third place and **My Therapy** sailed by Michael Brindley in fourth place.

During these 2 heats on Saturday there were quite a few exciting moments on all boats with knockdowns, crew members going overboard, spinnaker poles being lost, mainsail sheets become detached from the traveller just some of the moments.

Heat 3 was sailed on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Heat 3 was a passage race starting in Kogarah Bay at the club house then a work to a mark just under Captain Cook Bridge before sailing under the bridge and down the Georges River into Botany Bay. Once the fleet was in Botany Bay, the course took the RL24s to a buoy near the Novotel Hotel at Brighton Le Sands. From here, it was a long work to the Kurnell Oil Refinery wharf and a yacht rounding buoy located nearby. The next leg of the race was back to the entrance of the Georges River and up the river to the same rounding buoy near Captain Cook bridge before a final leg to the finish back at the Club house.

Wind conditions were much more favourable with a 10-13knot SSE breeze and sunny conditions.

This race saw **Ringleader** gain an early break on the fleet but on the tight run down the Georges River **Crescent** caught and passed Ringleader. **My Therapy** and **Octantis** were close behind the leading boats with no more than 2 minutes separating the fleet as they entered Botany Bay. On the Spinnaker run to the Brighton Le Sands buoy, **Ringleader** went ahead of **Crescent** with **Octantis** in

third place around the buoy closely followed by **My Therapy**. On the long work to Kurnell, **Ringleader** maintained its lead over **Crescent** with **Octantis** and **My Therapy** in third and fourth places around this buoy. On the run back to the Georges River tight spinnaker angles extended the fleet. As the fleet progressed up the Georges river back to the Captain Cook Bridge buoy, it was almost a work until the RL24s rounded the Middle Spit Channel marker and then were able to set their spinnakers to sail under the bridge. The final finishing leg was a square run to the clubhouse. The elapsed time for the race was 2hrs 37minutes 30 seconds for **Ringleader**, 2 hrs 41minutes 24 seconds for **Crescent**, 2 hrs 41 minutes 50 seconds for **Octantis** and 2hrs 58 minutes 48 seconds for **My Therapy**.

## OVERALL RESULTS

PLACE	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER
First	<b>Crescent</b>	Tony Toms
Second	<b>Ringleader</b>	Colin Boylan
Third	<b>Octantis</b>	Martin O'Shannessy
Fourth	<b>My Therapy</b>	Michael Brindley

## SOME PHOTOS



**Octantis**



**My Therapy**



**Crescent**



**Ringleader**