

Report on the 2016-2017 NSW State Titles

After a break of many years, the RL24 New South Wales States Titles has been placed back on the sailing calendar. Through the work of Martin O'Shannessy, Paul Corben and Colin Boylan, a 3 race series has been organised for the 2016-2017 season. The first two races have been sailed at Illawarra Yacht Club on 12th and 13th November 2016. The third race will be sailed on Botany Bay from the Kogarah Bay Sailing Club on Sunday 5th March 2017.

At the Illawarra Yacht Club, a fleet of 5 RL24s turned up and enjoyed some great sailing. On the Saturday afternoon race an Olympic style course was sailed, while on the Sunday a passage race around Lake Illawarra incorporating 5 rounding marks was used. RL24s came from Illawarra Yacht Club, Kogarah Bay Sailing Club, Georges River Sailing Club and Southern Highlands Sailing Club.

Saturday saw a good constant breeze of 12 - 15 knots at the 1.30pm start. All boats enjoyed some close sailing and some exciting spinnaker runs. As there were both Drop Keel and Swing Keel RL boats sailing, the TYSB's Class Based Handicap system was used to produce a Corrected Time result for all boats. After just over 100 minutes of elapsed time sailing, *Treasure Island* sailed by James Stevens and crew consisting of Gavin Markey, Elissa Markey, Lise Mellor (Saturday) and Peter Sheldon (Sunday) came across the finish line in first place.

After all the RL24s had completed the course, the **Corrected Times** were calculated and first place went to *Treasure Island* sailed by James Stevens and crew. Second place to *Ringleader* sailed by Colin Boylan and crew consisting of Jenyne Norris, Timothy Boylan and Amy Boylan, third place to *Octantis* sailed by Martin O'Shannessy and crew consisting of Lothar Wilkens and Wulf Wilkens and fourth place to *My Therapy* sailed by Michael Brindley and crew consisting of Phil Wales, Piper Wales, Wayne Semmler and Adel Semmler. *Shaka* sailed by Robert Winn and crew consisting of Elliott Winn and Jeff Hall did not sail on Saturday due to Robert being called away for work.

Sunday's race was a morning start at 11.00am. At 10.30am the breeze changed from a light NNW to a Westerly wind at about 12 knots. By the time the race started at 11.10am, the breeze had strengthened to almost 20 knots out of the West. The course set was a long passage race of about 18 kilometres consisting of 2 works and 3 running legs with the finish line back in front of the IYC Clubhouse. By the end of the first work the breeze had freshened to about 25knots. No boats carried spinnakers on any of the running legs on Sunday. Wind waves on Lake Illawarra increased to about half a metre. By the time all boats were on the final run back to the Clubhouse the breeze was averaging 25 knots with some gusts to 30 knots. This final leg was a broad three quarter run from the southern end of the Lake all the way up to the Channel back to the IYC Clubhouse finish. The run in the channel was a very proud square run with wind gusts to 30 knots. Needless to say, some RL24s had a few exciting moments around the course on Sunday. There were quite a few round ups and a couple of knock downs for boats in the stronger gusts. All 5 starters successfully completed the course.

Elapsed time sailing saw *Treasure Island* again come in first by about 9 minutes from *Octantis*. *Ringleader* was a further 3 minutes later. Then came *Shaka* and *My Therapy* on elapsed time.

The **Corrected Time** results for Sunday's race saw *Treasure Island* put on a very competent demonstration of heavy wind sailing as James Stevens and crew finished first. Second went to *Ringleader* sailed by Colin Boylan and his 3 adult 'children'. Third place went to *Octantis* sailed by Martin O'Shannessy and crew. Fourth place went to *Shaka* sailed by Robert Winn and crew and Fifth place went to *My Therapy* sailed by Michael Brindley and crew.

After the first two races of the three race series for the NSW State Titles, the current placings are:

Treasure Island	1.5 points
Ringleader	4 points
Octantis	6 points
My Therapy	9 points
Shaka	10 points

The final heat of the 2016 NSW State Championships was sailed on 5th March 2017 on Kogarah Bay and was hosted by the Kogarah Bay Sailing Club.

With strong winds and rain forecast for the day, the Race Committee decided to sail on Kogarah Bay rather than conduct the Passage Race on Botany Bay where wind strength were recorded at 30+ Knots with a large swell coming in through the heads.

The race on Kogarah Bay was sailed in variable wind conditions from the South to South West and consisted of three laps. The competitors started at the club house and worked to a rounding buoy near Captain Cook Bridge then sailed on a tight reach to a rounding buoy at Tom Ugly's Bridge then a long square run towards the northern end of Kogarah Bay and then a short work to a fourth rounding buoy near Carss Park. From this buoy, all RLs sailed through a gate between the Club house and a buoy positioned about 80 metres from the Club house.

The first lap was sailed in fresh conditions with winds varying from 15 – 20 knots. The second lap provided lighter winds in the range 12 – 15 knots while in the final lap the wind increased to 15 – 18 knots.

4 RLs sailed in the race with local boat *Crescent* sailed by Tony Thoms winning the Kurnell Cup. *Ringleader* sailed by Colin Boylan was second with *Octantis* sailed by Martin O'Shannessy in third place and *Shrek* sailed by Dave Robertson was fourth.

At the Presentation, Kevin Troy, the last NSW State Champion travelled from the Central Coast, and presented the plaques to each of the place getters. It was a

pleasure to hear Kevin talk about sailing RLs and he indicated that he has almost completed a full restoration of his RL (Slippery When Wet) and will be competing in regattas in 2017 -2018 season.

The final and overall placings for the 2016 NSW State Championships were:

PLACE	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER	POINTS
1 st	<i>Ringleader</i>	Colin Boylan	4.75 points
2 nd	<i>Treasure Island</i>	James Stevens	7.5 points
3 rd	<i>Octantis</i>	Michael O'Shannessy	8.0 points
4 th	<i>My Therapy</i>	Michael Brindley	15.0 points
5 th	<i>Shaka</i>	Robert Winn	16.0 points

NEXT RL24 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS for 2017 – 2018 season.

At an owners/skippers meeting held on Sunday 5th March at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club, it was agreed that for next season the NSW State Championships would be conducted over the same 2 venues as this year and that these would be:

- 1) **Illawarra Yacht Club** Lord Mayors Regatta 11th & 12th November 2017; and
- 2) **Kogarah Bay Sailing Club** Kurnell Cup in early March 2018. (Final date will be advised).

So, Make sure you have these dates in your diary and plan to participate in next season's titles.