

2019 NSW RL24 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Five RL24s competed in the NSW States Championships over the 16th and 17th November 2019 at Illawarra Yacht Club. Boats from Wagga Wagga, Newcastle and the Southern Highlands competed. This series was the first race for the recently purchased **Cover To Cover** #168 sailed Charles Webb Wagg from Wagga Wagga. 4 RL24s were Swing Keels and one was a Drop Keel. The NSW RL24 State Championships were held as part of the IYC's 36th Lord Mayor's Regatta which attracted a fleet of 20 trailable yachts.

The Vice Commodore, Bob Bower and committee members made the visiting RL24s very welcome.

The fleet enjoyed some good South Easterly winds for sailing on the 2 races on Saturday with wind strength averaging 10 knots with gusts to 14 knots.

After a close start in Heat 1, local skipper Colin Boylan sailing **Ringleader** demonstrated some good sailing skills with a close winning margin of 45 seconds from Ron Kerr on **Hello Sailor** with Charles Webb Wagg sailing **Cover to Cover** finishing a very close 10 seconds further back in third place. Fourth place went to Michael Brindley and crew sailing **My Therapy**. And fifth place went to **Gundaroo 2** sailed by Doug Dyce. Less than 5 minutes separated the 5 RLs at the finishing line.

Heat 2 was a longer race, Colin Boylan sailing **Ringleader** gained a great start and was first around the windward mark, followed closely by Charles Webb Wagg and **Cover to Cover**. The final results for Heat 2 on corrected time saw **Ringleader** sailed by Colin Boylan in first place, **Hello Sailor** sailed by Ron Kerr in second place, **Cover to Cover** sailed by Charles Webb Wagg in third place. **My Therapy** sailed by Michael Brindley in fourth place with **Gundaroo 2** sailed by Doug Dyce in fifth place

Heat 3 was sailed on Sunday 17th November 2019. Heat 3 was a passage race which visited all parts of Lake Illawarra.

Wind conditions were stronger with a 15-20 knot SE breeze that slowly turns more South and overcast conditions. A South East Course was sailed.

This race saw **Cover to Cover** gain an early break on the fleet. **Hello Sailor** and **Gundaroo 2** closely followed **Cover to Cover** on the first run. **Ringleader** and **My Therapy** were close to both **Hello Sailor** and **Gundaroo 2**. As the race progressed, both **Ringleader** and **My Therapy** started catching **Hello Sailor** and **Gundaroo 2**. Some close windward working saw **Ringleader** get past **Hello Sailor**, **Gundaroo 2** and **My Therapy**.

The final finishing leg was a tight reach to the clubhouse.

The elapsed time for the race was 1 hour 43 minutes 25 seconds for **Cover to Cover (DK)**, 1 hour 44 minutes 15 seconds for **Ringleader (SK)**, 1 hour 44 minutes 31 seconds for **Hello Sailor (SK)**, 1 hour 49 minutes and 54 seconds for **My Therapy (SK)**, and 2 hours 4 minutes 22 seconds for **Gundaroo 2 (SK)**.

The corrected times for Heat 3 saw **Ringleader** in first place in 1 hour 15 minutes and 35 seconds with **Hello Sailor** in second place with 1 hour 15 minutes and 46 seconds, **Cover to Cover** in third place with 1 hour 18 minutes and 35 seconds, **My Therapy** in fourth place with 1 hour 19 minutes and 41 seconds and **Gundaroo 2** in fifth place with 1 hour 30 minutes and 10 seconds.

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

PLACE	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER	FINAL POINTS
First	<i>Ringleader</i>	Colin Boylan	2.25
Second	<i>Hello Sailor</i>	Ron Kerr	6
Third	<i>Cover to Cover</i>	Charles Webb Wagg	9
Fourth	<i>My Therapy</i>	Michael Brindley	12
Fifth	<i>Gundaroo 2</i>	Doug Dyce	15

In conjunction with the Championship series a Handicap series was introduced this year for the first time since the State Championships were revived in 2016.

A PBH style system was developed using Heat 1 results as its basis. Each Heat saw a different boat take out that with Ringleader, Gundaroo 2 and Hello Sailor winning individual Heats.

OVERALL HANDICAP RESULTS

PLACE	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER	FINAL POINTS
First	<i>Hello Sailor</i>	Ron Kerr	6.75
Second	<i>Ringleader</i>	Colin Boylan	8.75
Third	<i>My Therapy</i>	Michael Brindley	9
Fourth	<i>Gundaroo 2</i>	Doug Dyce	9.75
Fifth	<i>Cover to Cover</i>	Charles Webb Wagg	10

The final places for the Handicap series were only resolved after the final Heat 3 results were calculated.