

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 race at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club will also be a passage race starting at Kogarah Bay and sailing out and around Botany Bay. This final race will be held on 5th March 2017 with a Noon starting time. The NSW State Title Trophy will be presented at the conclusion of this final race.

All RL24s owners are most welcome to join in the sailing at Kogarah Bay.