



2010 2.4mR Australian Championships Hobart

Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania & Derwent Sailing Squadron, 2-4 April 2010

by Michael Leydon

The Story Continues

Having analysed all the photos from Sail Melbourne (thanks for the photos), I decided that I needed to modify the leach on my main so I ordered a new set of sails from Warren (South Eastern Sails). We had already discussed the mods for the new jib so I was looking forward to seeing the result.

Tuesday I flew to Hobart where I meet up with Ron Bugg and got my first look at Hobart, which I liked very much. It felt like I was home in Wellington NZ. The Canberra contingent turned up right on time at 4 and we unloaded the boats before we called it a night.

Wednesday we spent all day running to marine shops, polishing boats and generally tidying up and sorting things out. The day went quickly so no one went out for a sail although I did pull up my new sails to have another look at them. Thursday we finally got the boats wet and had some practice starts and one-lap races, thanks to Greg and Crazy. Lisa was showing a lot of promise and showed us that the right was the way to go in the light breeze, with some tidal influence. So we all went home wondering what tomorrow would bring.

Friday, Race 1 Light sea breeze with outgoing tide. A big crowd approached the pin end on starboard with Lisa holding up the fleet allowing me to jump across the line on port and Thomo crossing their sterns, also on port. We fought it out for the whole race and I managed to get ahead a couple of times but in the end Thomo got the pressure and won with Russie third.

Race 2 Lisa clean hit the start from the boat end and went on to win. I drew level with her on the run but was unable to get the pressure to get clear of her and had another second with Matt having a good one to finish third.

Race 3 Russie jumped out at the start and led all the way with me, yet again, second and Thomo third. So at the end of day 1, I was winning with three seconds on 6, Russie 8, Thomo 9, Lisa 11, Matt 14 and Kim 16. Already the fleet was spreading out and with such close racing it was imperative that you sailed consistently and didn't incur a bad one.

Saturday, Race 4 Light conditions again, and a three lapper was set. I finally won one with the course being shortened at the end of the second run, from Lisa followed by Russie.

Race 5 Russie sailed very well in this one only to be run over and under on the final run to drop to fourth.

Race 6 Very close racing and I led round the top mark the last time. I then made a mistake on the final run by not going high enough out of the mark which allowed Thomo to get the windward position on me while Kim and Lisa blocked the wind across the course, I was stuck where I was and managed to hang onto second. The same thing had happened to Russie in the previous race and he dropped to fourth.

Sunday, Race 7 Was this a race? This was the first race with the breeze coming down the Derwent (catabatic) and nearing the time when it is meant to drop out and wait for the sea breeze to start building. It was a very close first drift in sub 2 knots against an out-going tide. Greg Hyde led round the top mark from Russie, Ron and me with Lisa and Thomo well behind exactly where I needed them. Russie gybed at the mark and according to him he lined up a couple of landmarks and headed into the tide for a drift to the bottom mark. I went wide into a small breeze line and Lisa 'followed' me by sitting on my hip forcing me to go higher and higher until she gybe off and headed for the line, as the course has just been shortened. Meanwhile Thomo had opened his lunch and was munching away as he crossed the line for a second place behind Russie with Lisa fifth and me seventh. This was not the result I was after, as I had wanted to win it with this race so that there was no pressure on me going into the final heat. At least this was my first bad one and everyone else had had two bad ones.

Race 8 A lovely sea breeze had arrived at about 6-8 knots, flat water and a turning, tide. It was going to be a great race with the winner taking all. The points were me on 12, Thomo on 13, Russie on 16 and Lisa on

17. It was a long line with Lisa lining up on the boat end and Thomo and Matt on the pin. I was about mid line with Ian just to leeward of me. I'm not sure were Russie was. At the start the boat crowd headed off to the beach side of the course while the rest of us headed out on starboard. Ian was showing good speed and rounded the top mark first, with Russie second and me third. I went high out of the mark to get over Russie who seemed to be having some sheeting problems and Lisa went even higher out of the mark forcing us all to stay high. There was another problem in that nobody could see the bottom mark or even the start boat as the low position of the sun made it impossible to see down the course. Mean while Ian had sailed down the rhumb line and extended his led. After spotting the start boat and discovering that we were all about 60 degrees off courses, the fleet started to arc down to the mark. We brought the breeze with us and I ended up rounding ahead of Ian and started to extend my new led from there. I rounded the top mark for the last time with a very good led and headed for the finish. Again the pressure died and returned from behind and I had to reach across to the new breeze while I watched Russie led the charge to run me over. Fortunately he didn't and I won from Russie, Ian, Lisa, Kim followed by Thomo and Matt who dead heated for sixth.

This was a great result (write your own report and you can be the star) as I had worked very hard to peek for this regatta and I did want to win it. My strategy of getting a good start not necessary the best had kept me in contention. I was extremely pleased with my new sails and I got faster as the regatta went on as I got use to the conditions and the sails.

Thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make the regatta happen and to Ron and Paula for putting up with Kim, Simon and me. Congratulations to the race committee who worked so hard to give us a great regatta under very trying conditions. A big thanks to Lisa who took me for a tour of Tassie which ended up at the 'Wall' just out of Queenstown, Lake St Clair and Mt Wellington and Ron who took me down through the Huon Valley where we saw the wooden boat school. Thanks also to Matt who cooked Lisa and me a wonderful salmon steak and entertained us for the evening. So I say farewell to Tassie and Octopod II as I have left her in the safe hands of Lisa who has already adapted to her and is continuing to build the Hobart fleet. Thanks again to everyone and we will catch-up again soon.



Winners can write the story



but it doesn't happen without Ted, Ron and Paula

Overall Results (drops = 1)

Pl	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Net Points
1	27	Octopod II	Michael Leydon	2	2	2	1	3	2	(7)	1	13
2	30	Morna V	Peter Thompson	1	5	3	5	1	1	2	(6.5)	18
3	28	Jeelka	Peter Russell	3	4	1	3	4	(5)	1	2	18
4	14	Happy Days	Lisa Blackwood	(6)	1	4	2	2	3	5	4	21
5	33	Supermodel	Mathew Bugg	4	3	7	(14)O	5	8	3	6.5	36.5
6	25	Futs & Fugly	Kim Williams	5	6	5	4	(9)	4	9	5	38
7	2	Dame Pattie	Ian Ross	9	7	6	(14)O	10	7	8	3	50
8	32	Windsurfer	Greg Hyde	8	12	9	8	(13)	6	6	10	59
9	31	Jitterbug	Ron Bugg	(13)	10	8	9.5	7	12	4	9	59.5
10	10	Lilla Babs	Colin Brown	7	11	10	6	12	9	(13)	8	63
11	29	Tumbleweed	Simon Dunstone	10	8	(12)	9.5	8	10.5	10	11	67
12	42	The Meaning of Life	Peter Richards	11	9	11	7	6	(14)O	11	13	68
13	9	Advance Australia	Peter Warren	12	(13)	13	11	11	10.5	12	12	81.5

2010 2.4mR National Championship photo story thanks to Ted Grubb



A sailmaker's view for Ian Ross



Race 1 start, port win for Michael Leydon



Peter Thompson establishes a lead



Hard work in the pack



Race 2 start, Peter Thompson clear but



Lisa Blackwood runs away to win



Race 4 start, too much TAS hospitality for some



Peter Thompson leads the way after the start



Race 5 start, a Colin Brown flyer



Peter Thompson a clear lead at the top mark



Race 7 start, a perfect pin by Greg Hyde



Peter Russell darts for the tide after the top mark



A shortened drift with the tide to the finish



Peter Thompson keeps Matt Bugg out after lunch



Start Race 8



Close at the top in perfect conditions



Ian Ross challenges Michael Leydon



Michael Leydon takes his fifth National Championship