



2011 2.4mR Sail Melbourne

Sandringham Yacht Club, 6-12 November 2011

Sail Melbourne News by Craig Heydon (reprinted from <http://www.yachting.org.au>)



Matt Bugg blitzed the fleet to win with 9 points from 10 races!

7th November 2011 - Australians start strongly at home World Cup

The first round of the ISAF Sailing World Cup has kicked off at Sail Melbourne, with a number of Australian Sailing Team crews enjoying a strong opening day on Port Phillip Bay. Tasmanian and Australian Sailing Squad member Matt Bugg had a great day on the water in the 2.4mR class, winning both of the day's races, to lead the trailing pack by five points with fellow Squad member Greg Hyde in third.

8th November 2011 - Light winds slow down racing at Sail Melbourne

Light winds have dictated racing on day two of Sail Melbourne, the opening round of the ISAF Sailing World Cup, with a number of Australian Sailing Team crews having standout performances in the tricky conditions. Due to the light conditions the RS:X, Skud 18 and 2.4mR classes were unable to get any racing in.

9th November 2011 - Extreme conditions cancel racing at opening Sailing World Cup

Strong, gusty, winds have ended day three of Sail Melbourne early, with only a handful of classes able to get in racing at the opening round of the ISAF Sailing World Cup. After two days of light conditions Melbourne upped the ante on Wednesday with winds gusting above 30 knots forcing the race committee to cancel racing mid-afternoon. Only the RS:X, 470 and Paralympic class fleets were able to complete any racing, with a number of solid performances for Australian crews.

The 2.4mR class also completed one race with Matt Bugg continuing to lead the class following a second place finish on Wednesday morning. Bugg is currently sitting on four points, four ahead of fellow Australian Sailing Squad member Greg Hyde.

10th November 2011 - Australian sailors on top as World Cup heats up

Australian sailors lead the way in four classes after four days of racing at Sail Melbourne, the opening round of the ISAF Sailing World Cup. Crews were greeted by steady winds and choppy seas on Thursday, allowing for a full schedule of racing on Port Phillip Bay.

Australian Sailing Squad member Matt Bugg continued his great run in the 2.4mR class, with three race wins on day four giving him a nine point lead over New Zealand's Brett Willcock. Bugg has now won five of the six races contested, with his worst result a second.

11th November 2011 - Gold for Bugg at Sailing World Cup with a day to spare

Australian Sailing Squad member Matt Bugg has claimed the 2.4mR class with a race to spare following a dominant week where he won eight of the nine races, with a second his worst finish.

"I've been training a lot at home recently, working on all the things I did wrong in Europe this year and trying to put those things right," said Bugg. "I'm really happy with the approach we've taken to this regatta and am thrilled with the result."








12th November 2011 - Medal haul for Aussie sailors at home World Cup event

Australian sailors have dominated the final day of the ISAF Sailing World in Melbourne with the home team claiming 16 medals across the eight Olympic and two Paralympic classes.

Matt Bugg finished the 2.4mR regatta in the same way as he started it with a race win to claim the Gold medal. Bugg won nine of the 10 races to secure himself the Gold medal by a massive 21 points from fellow Australians Greg Hyde and Michael Leydon.



Overall Results 2.4mR

				Race Number										Points	
Pl	Name	Sail No	Country	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total Points	Net Points
1	 BUGG, Matt	1	AUS	1	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	9
2	 HYDE, Greg	32	AUS	2	5	1	5	3	(6)	2	5	2	5	36	30
3	 LEYDON, Michael	27	AUS	5	2	6	(8) DNF	2	4	3	3	3	2	38	30
4	 WILLCOCK, Brett	92	NZL	4	3	3	2	4	2	4	4	(6)	4	36	30
5	 FRANCIS, Paul	17	NZL	3	4	(7)	6	5	3	5	2	5	3	43	36
6	 BROWN, Colin	10	AUS	6	(7)	5	4	6	7	6	6	4	7	58	51
7	 DUNSTONE, Simon	29	AUS	(7)	6	4	3	7	5	7	7	7	6	59	52

Sail Melbourne 2011 thoughts by Michael Leydon

What a fantastic result for Matt, 9 from 10 and in all conditions including mine. Well done TEAM!!!!

You couldn't ask for a better result and if this doesn't get Matt selected then I don't know what else he has to do. No one has dominated a regatta in all conditions like this before in Australia and it is a testament to Matt's dedication and hard work along with Scary and all the support crew at home.

Matt was able to lead from the front and come from behind clearly showing his new levels of skill and maturity that he will need in London. Go Matt!!!

Matt brought to this regatta the preparation needed to win. Along with a coach (with boat), 'Supermodel' was meticulously prepared, he hit the water early and came through with the results.

However this was not just about Matt. Greg has stepped up big time and finishing second to Matt. This is a huge improvement for him. Switching to a 110% jib with no jib pole, being right up there in the heavier conditions he is improving all the time so again hard work with coaching is paying off big time. Well done Alan and team!!

Brett and Paul came over and played with us and this time Brett brought his own boat although he hasn't sailed it much since Sail Auckland in February. He showed great speed and was very competitive. He just missed out on a medal on a three way count back. Just one less point.

Paul showed his class on the start line killing me twice, but was struggling for boat speed in the challenging conditions with all borrowed gear. Really a little hard for him to have a great regatta but hopefully he learnt more about how to sail a 2.4 and I hope he stays with it. He has shown some of his potential in England earlier in the year.

It was good to see Charlie and Rob again and that NZ sent over a coaching team for the event. This can only bode well for NZ's future Paralympic success.

Colin showed improvement, especially in the heavy and was robbed of a potential first when Wednesday's second race on was called off. The Olympics were working well for both he and Simon.

Simon showed moments of brilliance and with more time on the water should be able to get it together like he did in the ACT Championships.

I had a good drive home breaking the trip at Wodonga where I stayed overnight. I was able to reflect on the regatta and look at all the good things that I saw during the week. This lifted my spirits a lot and motivated me to write these thoughts down both for you and myself. The fleet is very competitive and it was unusual to have a very big gap over the whole fleet. The level has risen and no longer can I just throw the boat into the water with any old sails and expect to win. Can anyone tell me what P P P P P P stands for, I've forgotten...

It's great to see the level of professionalism now in the fleet with fully prepared boats, coaches with coach boats and sailors getting onto the water early with their coaches. This has lifted the bar and means that we all have to be better prepared before we leave home if you want to be competitive.

It was great catching up with you all again, well done everyone and thanks for lifting the bar. See you at the next regatta, keep sailing fast.