



## 2012 2.4mR Australian Championships Canberra

YMCA Sailing Club of Canberra, 18-20 February 2012

by Peter Campbell, reprinted from <http://www.sail-world.com>, 21 Feb 2012

### Matt Bugg defends title



'Matt Bugg (sail no AUS1) to windward of his opponents in the International 2.4mR class on Lake Burley Griffin on Monday - International 2.4mR Championships 2012' Richard Scarr

**International 2.4mR Championships were held from Saturday 18 February to Monday 20 February 2012 at YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club. Tasmanian sailor Matt Bugg has successfully defended his Australian title in the International 2.4mR class in which he is expected to represent his country at the London Paralympic Games.**

Bugg won by just one point in a closely-fought series on Canberra's Lake Burley-Griffin on Sunday and Monday, repeating his performance at Metung, Victoria, last year when he became the first non-Canberra sailor to be national champion in this one-man yacht.

In addition to Bugg, several paraplegic sailors contested the open championship against able-bodied sailors in the 18 boat fleet. With Saturday's racing cancelled because of lack of wind, five races were packed into two days and, fortunately for Bugg, there was a discard, which was an 11th in race two.

He recovered with a win in race three, then a fourth and a third and, with his first race fifth, ended with 13 points, just one point ahead of Sydney sailor Lachlan Gilbert on 14 points. Third place, on 16 points, went to Michael Leydon from the host club, the YMCA Sailing Club of Canberra.

Gilbert won the final race, which meant that Bugg had to finish second or third. He crossed the line third to retain the title and further enhance his prospects of representing Australia at the London Paralympics. The team is expected to be announced shortly.

'My flight from Hobart to Canberra the day before the regatta started was cancelled, so I went into the first race with a total of about 40 minutes in the new boat that I had launched in Hobart only three days before,' Bugg said yesterday.

'The racing was very difficult with massive wind shifts and huge variance in the wind strength, normally from nothing to almost nothing. After a second place on the last day and then a complete disappearance of the wind, I thought I had the regatta won, until I found out that the last race had been thrown out due to the race officer finishing everyone incorrectly. Luckily, the breeze filled in for one last race and a third was enough to give me the trophy for one more year,' Bugg added.

In addition to Bugg and Gilbert, heat winners were Tasmanian Lisa Blackwood, who finished fifth overall, veteran Canberra 2.4mR sailor Peter Russell who was fourth overall and third placegetter Michael Leydon.

Greg Hyde won the Pointscore championship with Ron Bugg second and Brett Willcock third.

John Hosking was the inaugural winner of the Grand Masters trophy for over 70s competition.

## Acknowledgement

The lowering of the lake for maintenance works on Scrivener Dam has made launching 2.4mR yachts difficult in Canberra and we thank the Canberra Dragon Boat Association for the loan of their pontoon without which the YMCASC could not have conducted the event.

## 15<sup>th</sup> 2.4mR Nationals by Michael Leydon

There was a lot of anticipation building in Canberra for this event with nine local boats sailing and Peter's spare boat being sailed by Brett Willcock from NZ, all the Canberra fleet would be on the water!!! Even a last minute change of skipper for Kim's boat with Lachlan Gilbert taking the helm still kept the whole fleet on the water. Greg was coming from Pittwater and Lisa, Matt, Ron, Anthony and Ted coming from across the other ditch to gives a fleet of sixteen.

A lot of preparation went into the organization of the regatta by Peter and team as the lake had been lowered and launching was now a big challenge not to mention where to tie up the boats. This was solved by borrowing a pontoon and placing it off our existing jetty and making it a wet regatta. In hindsight, this worked really well, adding a new dimension to the club which received many favourable comments. It's a shame that we can't look after the pontoon for a lot longer!!!

The regatta was preceded by two coaching days given by Richard Scarr, Matt's coach. It sounds like I could have benefited a lot by attending as I would have learnt to 'sail to the pressure', position myself downhill and many other choice bits that would have helped me in this regatta. On behalf of all those who attended Richard's training, thankyou Richard.

The regatta itself proved to be a very difficult one both for the Race Officer Graeme Dennett and his helpers, as very was very little to no wind for the whole regatta making it near impossible to give us good racing with five races from seven starts.

It was always going to be an interesting regatta results wise as everyone had improved, and a lot of new sails and boat were attending this regatta. Greg Hyde was showing steady improvement and after winning every heat in his Liberty at the NSW Access State Titles was in race mode. So was Matt, just arrived back from the USA after achieving a bullet at the Miami World Cup Regatta, so he was race fit however sailing a new boat. Lachlan was jumping into the fleet and that could and did mean anything and then there were the locals with Peter Thompson, Peter Russell and Michael Leydon all wanting to win on their home turf.

Congratulations to Matt Bugg in defending his title to all the other competitors who came and played over the weekend. Thanks again to everyone who helped out and made the regatta possible. See you all at the next regatta, sail fast.

## Overall Results (drops = 1)

Pl	Sail No	Boat Name	Skipper	Score	Race 6	Race 5	Race 4	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1	1	Sponsor Wanted	Matt Bugg	13	3	abandoned	4	1.0	[11]	5
2	25	Futs and Fugly	Lachlan Gilbert	14	1		6	[6.0]	4	3
3	27	Octopod	Michael Leydon	16	4		[9.0]	4.0	1	7
4	28	Jeelka	Peter Russell	19	[17O]		1	2.0	12	4
5	14	Happy Days	Lisa Blackwood	19	8		5.0	[8.0]	5	1
6	NZ92	Polar Bear	Brett Willcock	19	5		2	[17.0O]	2	10
7	32	Windsurfer	Greg Hyde	23	2		3	5.0	[17R]	13
8	30	Morna V	Peter Thompson	24	[17C]		13	3.0	6	2
9	7	Mr Squiggle	Anthony Castray	28	9.0		10	[17.0O]	3	6
10	29	Tumbleweed	Simon Dunstone	34	10		7	9.0	8	[11]
11	9	Advance Australia	Peter Warren	35	7		[12]	10	10	8
12	31	Jitterbugg	Ron Bugg	36	6		11	7	[13]	12
13	24	Pan	John Hosking	42	[17C]		8	11	8	15
14	10	Lilla Babs	Colin Brown	51	17O		[17O]	12	8	14
15	42	The Meaning of Life	Peter Richards	52	[17C]		15	13	15	9
16	18	Raglan	Ted Moule	58	[17C]		14	14	14	16



Matt Bugg (AUS 1) racing against Sydney sailor Greg Hyde in the 2.4mR class nationals on Lake Burley-Griffin. Photo by Richard Scarr



Run to the finish of Race 3 in the 2.4mR class nationals on Lake Burley-Griffin. Photo by Richard Scarr