



2012 2.4mR Canberra Regatta

YMCA Sailing Club, 10-11 November 2012

Story by Colin Brown, pictures by Jo Caffery (YMCA of Canberra)

The Championships were held over the weekend of 10/ 11 November 2012. Dangerously close to the spring racing carnival in Melbourne. The good news was that we had a fleet of 10 lining up at the barrier – nearly all the usual suspects were there plus a really dark horse in Mark Durnan who recently took over stewardship of *Futs @ Ugly*, AUS 25.

Who won? Based on form to date this season, all those in the know placed their money on Peter Russell. The odds were short but punters were not disappointed with his win based on three firsts and a second.

The odds lengthened a bit when it came to how second and third would be decided. Clearly Greg Hyde was the form pony from Sydney, but he had only recently moved his boat to Canberra. To say that Michael Leydon had spent a bit too much time out to pasture was not an exaggeration. He was seen to be doing major renovations to his boat a few hours prior to the start....not good.

As it turned out, Michael's past form (five national championships) gave him an inside run to second place with a first, two seconds and a third. Greg was only three aggregate points behind but had to carry a fourth into his final score. He ended up in a canter with four points over the fourth finishing boat.

And where was Peter Thompson you ask? A three time national representative out of the top three? Well Thommo put some serious lead into his saddlebags by missing the Saturday starts. This left him three results short and he was down the list despite his first and fifth on Sunday.



Peter Russell (28) chased by John Hosking (24), Michael Leydon (27) and Peter Richards (42)

The Race Officer gave Hughie every chance to blow for Race one on Saturday with a late start, but the wind remained stubbornly light from the east to north east. The fleet did not exactly leap out of the barrier. Peter Russell sailed a conservative line by keeping pretty well to the middle of the course. Michael adopted his usual creative approach by working the leeward lay lines, and did not seem to lose anything by it. Greg applied the same approach as Peter, and that is pretty well how the race ended. Peter first, Michael second and Greg third.

Those who felt challenged by the conditions in the first race found little joy in the second start, which took place in similarly light wind. Peter Russell and Michael started well in the middle of the line, taking all the wind – or so it seemed to your correspondent (AUS 10) who found himself in the worst possible place, leeward of the heavies! From the perspective of the back of the fleet, Peter Russell sailed his conservative line, which paid off with a win. The accolade for this race must go to the second place getter, John Hosking (*Pan* AUS 24). John sailed for a lift along the lee shore of Yarralumla Bay, neatly tacked at Spinnaker Island and lifted along the lee shore to hold out for second place from Simon Dunston (*Tumbleweed* AUS 29). Michael, again heading for the leeward lay line, came in third. This race was a six pointer for Greg, which he subsequently dropped from his aggregated points.

Race three again started in light conditions but provided some of the best sailing breezes of the regatta. Colin (AUS 10) enjoyed a brief moment in the sun on the last windward leg, finding himself second to Peter, but was unable to hold his place in the freshening breeze from Greg and Michael who both passed him on this leg. Peter Russell won by a comfortable margin followed by Greg and Michael. Mark (AUS 25) really took off in this race and took a creditable fifth place.

Sunday dawned a new day, but once again the fleet faced light east to north east winds. At the start, Peter Thompson and Colin went hunting for pressure on the left and found some. Peter Russell and Greg went up the middle of the course along with Michael who ended up with an eight pointer, which he dropped in the final outcome. On the final mark rounding Peter and Greg were comfortably ahead and looked for wind on the lee side of the course. This left it open for Peter Thompson and Colin to take advantage of good pressure on the windward side of the course, making for a very close finish. The Race Committee nearly had to rely on a photo finish as four boats (Peter R, Peter T, Greg and Colin) crossed the line. When the smoke and fury cleared, the result was Peter T first, Greg second, Peter R third and Colin fourth. Peter Richards (*The Meaning of Life* AUS 42) came in fifth.

Whilst Peter Russell was in a pretty unassailable position going into the last race, both Greg and Michael had to do well to sort out the second and third positions. Allowing for discards, both competitors were on equal standing with two seconds and a third each.

Most of the fleet seemed to adopt quite conservative tactics in the race, generally sticking to the middle of the course, especially going through the gap between Yarralumla point and Spinnaker Island. In the second work Greg went for the middle of the course but Michael and Colin gained ground along the leeward shore. Michael led around the final mark followed by Peter Russell and Colin with Greg some way back. With benefit of a light but steady breeze down the final leg, this is how they finished. Michael first, Peter R second, Colin third and Greg fourth.

The thing that stood out in the series was how close the fleet was overall. That signals that all fleet members are doing what we should be doing. Giving each other lots of fun and good competition.

Overall Results (drops = 1)

Pl	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	1	2	3	4	5	Net Points
1	30	Jeelka	Peter Russell	1	1	1	(3)	2	5
2	27	Octopod II	Michael Leydon	2	3	3	(8)	1	9
3	28	Windsurfer	Greg Hyde	3	(6)	2	2	4	11
4	10	Lilla Babs	Colin Brown	(5)	5	4	4	3	16
5	24	Pan	John Hosking	7	2	(11C)	7	6	22
6	29	Tumbleweed	Simon Dunstone	6	4	(7)	6	7	23
7	42	The Meaning of Life	Peter Richards	4	7	(9F)	5	9	25
8	30	Morna V	Peter Thompson	(11C)	11C	11C	1	5	28
9	25	Futs & Fugly	Mark Durnan	9	9	5	(10)	8	31
10	9	Advance Australia	Peter Warren	8	8	6	9	(10)	31

Race comments by Peter Russell

Race 1 – In light variable conditions Greg Hyde lead the fleet for most of the race but LBG gave Peter Russell the lead at the top mark with a wild swing to the right, Peter Richards breathed life into his new boat to finish fourth. **Race 2** - Stronger winds provided enjoyable racing, if you could cope with the random swings, John Hosking triumphed in the conditions with a good second to Peter Russell. **Race 3** – Greg Hyde was back chasing Peter Russell, with Mark Durnan scoring an encouraging fifth in his first 2.4mR regatta.

Race 4 – LBG at its worst but the racing was close with early leaders Greg Hyde and Peter Russell chased down on the run home by Peter Thompson and Colin Brown who found wind on the right, all four boats finished together much to the consternation of the race committee, Peter Thompson the winner with the inside run to the committee boat. **Race 5** – a race for the LBG flyer, Michael Leydon and Greg Hyde took the high road off the start, it didn't work on the second beat dumping Greg to fourth but Michael won asking for the series to start anew; Colin Brown again drew a short line to Peter Russell's stern for the run home – well done Colin!



Peter Richards (42), Colin Brown (10) and Peter Warren (9) on the beat



Mark Durnan (25) learning the ropes



Simon Dunstone (29) with John Hosking (24) and Michael Leydon (27) as Greg Hyde (32) chases the pack