



2.4mR World Championships 2016

Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia, January 2016

Megan Pascoe is the new World Champion

Megan Pascoe (GBR) to win her first World Title in a comfortable style

Year 2016 got to an early start when the 2016 World Championships was hosted by The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Hobart Tasmania.

32 boats showed up on the venue but never the less it was a week of very spectacular sailing with wind conditions that the majority of the fleet never had tried out, the wind was coming and going in a pattern that very few could understand and having local experience didn't seem to be that important, as nobody had a clue about from where the wind would set in after a sudden drop to zero. This happened at least once or twice in practically every race and after a zero condition the wind often started to blow 10-20 knots in a matter of minutes.... from a totally different and random direction.... very interesting.

The winner of the 2016 2.4mR World Championships and the new World Champion is Megan Pascoe (GBR) second Matt Bugg (AUS) and third Paul Francis (NZL). Official results can be found [here>>>>](#)

Overall results

Pl	Name	Boat	Sail Num	Bow Num	Country	State	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total Points	Net Points
1	Megan PASCOE	The Brain	121	03	GBR		Weymouth sc	2	1	2	3	(5)	1	1	1	2	(11)	29	13
2	Matt BUGG	Moshi	36	13	AUS		RYCT	6	4	5	(9)	3	7	3	2	4	(8)	51	34
3	Paul FRANCIS		105	32	NZL			(16)	6	(16)	6	6	8	5	7	5	5	80	48
4	Jan FORSBOM	Wenda	133	14	FIN		NPS	8	2	(19)	14	13	4	7	(17)	1	3	88	52
5	Niko SALOMAA	VOITTO II	173	06	FIN		TPS	7	8	10	(24)	1	5	(19)	12	10	1	97	54
6	Stephen MCCULLUM	Lowlife	43	23	AUS		Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania	(21)	7	(18)	2	9	16	6	4	7	7	97	58
7	Lisa BLACKWOOD	Smiley Face	39	26	AUS		Derwent Sailing Squadron	1	20	6	1	(23)	9	9	(24)	6	9	108	61
8	Janne LAINE	Blue Pearl	131	25	FIN		Naantali sailing club	5	15	9	10	(33)	2	(18)	6	13	2	113	62
9	Rikard BJURSTROM		184	02	FIN			4	11	11	12	(15)	6	2	3	(25)	15	104	64
10	Peter THOMPSON	Morna7	40	07	AUS		YMCASC	12	5	7	(33)	2	(21)	4	8	16	13	121	67
11	Michael LEYDON	Kurpitsa	46	27	AUS		YMCASC	10	9	1	4	7	(18)	15	(18)	17	6	105	69
12	Peter RUSSELL	Jeelka	28	16	AUS		YMCASC	11	10	(20)	5	8	17	(25)	13	3	10	122	77
13	Veikko MARTIN	***	172	12	FIN		Nasijarvi Sailing Club	15	12	4	7	12	15	(33)	(20)	11	12	141	88
14	Petteri GRONROOS		183	09	FIN		Nasijarvi Sailing Club	(29)	13	(22)	20	4	3	21	5	12	18	147	96
15	Pauli IMMOMEN	Wind 18	166	08	FIN		NPS	13	3	8	21	19	(22)	(33)	19	9	4	151	96
16	Nisse WEST		182	04	FIN		Wasa Yacht Club	(22)	19	13	8	16	13	11	10	(20)	14	146	104
17	Andrew MAY		92	29	NZL		Naval Point Club Lyttelton	9	14	(28)	15	18	11	12	26	(27)	16	176	121
18	Antti KOKKALA		111	11	FIN		RPS	3	16	(27)	25	11	14	10	(30)	24	22	182	125
19	Neil PATTERSON	Rocky	38	28	AUS		RBYC	20	(28)	3	(33)	17	12	26	15	14	23	191	130
20	Anna-Liisa OXBY	Filina	177	01	FIN		naantali sailing club	(25)	22	(33)	19	21	10	14	21	8	19	192	134
21	Simon DUNSTONE	Tumbleweed	29	20	AUS		YMCASC	14	27	14	13	10	(31)	(33)	9	30	21	202	138
22	Per STROMMAN		180	18	FIN			18	21	12	(33)	14	25	17	(27)	19	20	206	146
23	Mark DURNAN	Patch	25	19	AUS		YMCASC	24	(31)	21	11	27	26	8	16	(28)	28	220	161
24	Ian ROSS	Dame Pattie	2	21	AUS		RYCT	23	(25)	15	23	(24)	24	22	14	18	24	212	163
25	Colin BAYLEY BROWN	Lilla Babs	10	24	AUS		Canberra Yacht Club	(30)	23	24	17	(30)	20	20	23	21	25	233	173
26	Ron BUGG	Supermodel	33	30	AUS		DSS/RYCT	(28)	18	17	18	20	(30)	23	28	23	27	232	174
27	Peter JOHN WARREN	Advance Australia	9	05	AUS		YMCA Sailing Club	27	(29)	(31)	26	26	29	24	11	15	17	235	175
28	Malcolm COOPER	Speed Bump	35	31	AUS		DSS	17	24	26	(33)	25	27	16	(31)	22	30	251	187
29	Kaj GORAN ANTILA	Pia	139	15	FIN		WSF	26	(32)	(29)	21	22	28	13	29	26	26	252	191
30	Sauli YLITALO	Pattinki	108	22	FIN		HeiYC	(32)	17	30	(33)	28	23	27	25	29	29	273	208
31	Neil SHEPHARD	Grovler	18	10	AUS		RYCT	19	26	25	22	(33)	19	(33)	33	33	33	276	210
32	Hannu JAUHIAINEN		107	17	FIN		Tehin Pursiseura	(31)	30	23	27	29	(32)	28	22	31	31	284	221

Megan week by Rikard Bjurstrom FIN 184

The Worlds in Hobart have been sailed and one sailor above all others was the new World Champion Megan Pascoe (GBR). Megan has for a long time been an absolute top sailor in 2.4 sailing but not succeeded to take any big title. Now it has happened and she did it with a clear margin and there was no doubt of who was the best sailor in these Worlds.

Only 32 boats had entered the Championships and there was a really strange distribution of competitors from different countries. 15 from Australia, 14 from Finland, two from New Zealand and one from Great Britain. Though Australia is very far from Finland the Finns had arranged a container with 13 boats from Finland. The fourteenth Finn came from Melbourne from the disabled Worlds in December 2015. A World Championship that was a feast for 2.4 sailing with over 50 boats from 19 countries.



Australian customs and quarantine authorities are nothing you want to deal with voluntarily but with great assistance from the club the Finnish container arrived in time for the Open Australian Championships that were sailed before the Worlds. Matt Bugg (AUS) became the Australian Champion followed by Janne Laine (FIN) and Jan Forsbom (FIN) from Finland.

The Open Worlds

Despite of the small fleet of 32 boats Hobart and The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania did a wonderful job arranging the best Worlds ever. The wind conditions were the most challenging I have ever seen during my 20 earlier Worlds and there is no doubt that they will not be beaten even if we decide to sail in the Alps in winter time. In almost every race there were winds from 0 to 15 knots from any direction and it was impossible to foresee from where the next puff would come. It could happen many times during a race, that the wind suddenly disappeared up in the blue sky and come back somewhere else on the course, pushing forward new leaders to the next stop that almost surely came before the finishing line was reached. In Hobart the expression "it is not over until the fat lady sings" is a perfect description of the conditions and teach us to fight to the bitter or sweet end when we are racing.

Despite the challenging weather conditions Megan and Matt Bugg did a wonderful job finishing among top ten in almost every race (Megan had an eleven in the last race but at that time she was already the World Champion). Matt finished second overall and Paul Francis (NZL) took the bronze medal to New Zealand. The Finns became four and five but no medals went this time to Finland. However, the unofficial fight between nations, The Icebreaker Cup, was clearly won by the Finns so they also got some consolation in form of high class Tasmanian champagne that was handed to the winning team at the prize giving ceremony. The fact that all medals went to disabled sailors made many think that we in 2.4 mR sailing could turn the normal thinking around and put up a perpetual trophy for the best able bodied sailor and with women winning all the guys we also could have a trophy for the best male sailor. Truly an evidence on how great 2.4 sailing is and the possibilities it offers to every sailor. It is amazing that people are sailing other classes when there is 2.4 mR!

Many thanks to RYCT for the great job and for the kindness that you showed the sailors, it is hearth warming to deal with people who always have a smile on their face, even if it is raining.

Finnish invasion for 2.4mR World Championship

Peter Campbell, 31 December 2015

A team of 14 Finnish sailors last night descended on the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in a full-on national bid to win the Australian and World open championship for the International 2.4mR class which begins on the Derwent on Saturday, January 2.



Finnish sailors enjoyed a cold beer in the RYCT clubhouse, from left Rikard Bjurstrom, Goran Antila, Per Stromman, Veikko Martin and Nisse West. Photo Angus Calvert.

Fortunately, a container full of their boats shipped from Finland, was finally released for unpacking at the RYCT late yesterday after bureaucratic delays. This will give the Finnish sailors less than two days to rig their boats and 'taste the waters and winds' of the River Derwent.

From 11am on Saturday, the river between the Tasman Bridge and south of the John Garrow light at Sandy Bay will be a sea of sail, beginning with the start of the Clipper Around the World Race leg from Hobart to Airlie Beach. The iconic Sharpie class has scheduled a practice race for its national championship and at 2pm will see the start of the King of the Derwent and also the first race in the 2.4mR class Australian championships.

The Finns, along with 15 Australian sailors, make up the bulk of the 32-boat fleet for the 2.4mRs, with other internationals competing from Britain and New Zealand. Although the 2.4mR class is best known as one of three Paralympic Games sailing classes, these world championships are an open event with fully-bodied and disabled sailors competing.

Defending Australian champion in these single-handed small keelboat, in hull shape and rig a smaller version of the old America's Cup 12-metre yachts, is Tasmanian Matt Bugg, who will again represent Australia at the Paralympic Games in Rio. Bugg has won the 2.4mR nationals (an open event) a record five times and has been sailing at his best at international regattas on Melbourne's Port Phillip earlier this month.

Bugg's major competition in the championships on his home waters is expected to British sailor Megan Pascoe, one of the two top women sailors in the class. The disabled sailor finished sixth in a huge fleet of 102 boats at the previous 2.4mR open worlds in Finland earlier this year.

The Finns are generally an unknown quantity, given their late arrival in Hobart, with Jan Forsbom the best credentialed including a fourth overall in the 2015 open worlds. The Finnish team, after checking out their yachts in the boat park enjoyed a couple of chilled beers in the RYCT clubhouse on the banks of the River Derwent.

British 2.4mR sailor in form on River Derwent

Peter Campbell, 6 January 2016

British disabled sailor Megan Pascoe heads the leader board after the first three races of the World Open Championship for the International 2.4mR class sailed on Hobart's River Derwent yesterday.



Lisa Blackwood acknowledges her first race win the International 2.4mR class world championship on Hobart's Derwent River. Photo Angus Calvert.



With placings of 2-1-2, the world-renowned young woman sailor has a 10-point lead over her nearest competitor, Tasmanian Matt Bugg, who earlier this week won his sixth Australian championship in the single-handed keelboat class. Bugg is now in a catch-up situation after a 6-4-5 result yesterday in his bid to win his first world championship in the 2.4mR class, a scaled down version of the old 12-metre class in which John Bertrand won the America's Cup.

Megan just missed out on being chosen to represent Great Britain at the Rio Paralympics while Bugg is expected to be named in the Australian team shortly. The British sailor has been carefully assessing the winds and waters of the Derwent over the past week and today she showed great sailing skill and tactics in the light to moderate south-easterly sea breeze.

Pascoe finished second in race one to Tasmanian Lisa Blackwood, who got a perfect boat start, tacked right and led all the way to win from Pascoe and Antti Kokkala (FIN), Pascoe dominated race two with excellent tactics, winning from two Finnish sailors, Jan Forsbom and Pauli Immonen. Winner of race three was consistent ACT sailor Michael Leydon, with Megan Pascoe again in second berth to consolidate her overall lead. Another Tasmanian, Neil Patterson, placed third.

After three races, with up to another six more to be sailed through to Sunday, Pascoe (GBR) has 5 points, Bugg (AUS) 15, Leydon (AUS) 20, followed by Pauli Immonen (FIN) 24, Peter Thompson (AUS) 24 and Niko Salomaa (FIN) 25. Australia's only woman entrant, 56-year-old Lisa Blackwood, is eighth overall following a score of 1-20-6.

Racing will continue today with a reserve day on Friday, followed by final racing on Saturday and Sunday.

British woman leads 2.4mR worlds

Peter Campbell, 7 January 2016

British sailor Megan Pascoe is looking hard to beat in the world championship for the International 2.4mR class on the Derwent with two days to sail on Saturday and Sunday



The fleet in the 2.4mR worlds encountered some choppy conditions on the River Derwent on day two. Photo Angus Calvert.

Her 3-5-1 scorecard yesterday in races four, five and six have given her a net score of 9 points, well clear of the opposition from Australia and Finland. The only representative of Great Britain in the fleet, the paraplegic sailor from Weymouth England, has not finished worse than fifth in the 32 boat fleet, having adapted quickly to the winds and waters of the Derwent.

Australian champion Matt Bugg had a luckless day with a 9-3-7 scorecard yesterday to be on a net 25 points in second place overall. In race one, Bugg was leading the fleet halfway down the downwind run to the finish when the wind died totally for him. The rest of the fleet overtook him and then a major wind shift turned to the finish leg from the square run to a beat to windward.

Tasmanian Lisa Blackwood made the best of the wind change to win her second race of the Worlds, with another Tasmanian Stephen 'Rowdy' McCullum in second place and the consistent Megan Pascoe third. Bugg ended up ninth.

Provisionally third overall (there are protests) is ACT sailor Mark Leydon on a net 31 points. Finland's Niko Salomaa also on 31 points while in fifth place is Lisa Blackwood on 37 points.

Megan Pascoe wins for 2.4mR Worlds on the Derwent

Peter Campbell, 10 January 2016

Disabled British sailor Megan Pascoe has won the 2016 World Championship for the International 2.4mR single-handed yacht with two final races to sail today.



Megan Pascoe (GBR) and Matt Bugg (AUS) sailing boat for boat in the 2.4mR worlds on the Derwent. Photo Angus Calvert.

Pascoe (28) won both races seven and eight yesterday, relishing the light winds and benefitting from several significant changes in wind strength and direction of the past two days. Yesterday's two wins gave her three straight wins giving her a net score of 11 points after one discard and her first world championship victory in the 2.4mR class. In second place, after a luckless day, is Tasmanian and Australian champion and Paralympic representative Matt Bugg who finished third and second in yesterday's race after being overtaken when leading in both races. Bugg is on a net 30.

Rikard Bjurstrom (FIN) is third overall on 49 points with a 2-3 score, with New Zealander Paul Francis on 54 points (5-7 yesterday), closely followed by Athens and Sydney Paralympic representative Peter Thompson fifth overall on 59 points with a score 4-8 yesterday. Niko Salomaa (FIN) is in sixth position on 62 points while Tasmanian Stephen 'Rowdy' McCullum, who represented the RYCT at the 2015 Worlds in Finland, has the same net point score, yesterday placings 6-4.

Pascoe is unbeatable going into today's final two races from the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania when two discard races apply. The renowned British sailor is a position that even if Matt Bugg wins the last two races and she finishes last in each, she can discard these races and still finish well clear of Bugg. "I've never before in front so many times in a regatta, only to get run over near the finish line," Bugg said after yesterday's racing. "I lost the last race to Megan by just seconds. "Now I'm looking for a great run of good fortune on the race track, including the Rio Paralympics," added Bugg who is expected to be named in the team for Rio in next few weeks.

Pascoe is on the finest disabled women sailors, despite suffering from cerebral palsy. She saw this as no reason not to aspire to anything she felt drawn to in a sporty family where dinghy racing, windsurfing and triathlons were normal weekend activities. Pascoe's sharp and clear thinking has compensated for her undermined physical capability. The result is a highly focused, competitive woman whose single-minded confidence is born out of careful analysis rather than bone-headed stubbornness. "I will be competing at the Paralympics; it just might not be this one," she says with a confident and genuine smile.

Megan, then Matt in Worlds despite mishaps afloat

Peter Campbell, 11 January 2016

Despite a collision involving Megan Pascoe (GBR) and a start signal misunderstanding by Matt Bugg (AUS), the two disabled sailors still finished first and second in the World open championship for the International 2.4mR class, which ended on the River Derwent yesterday.



Megan Pascoe leading Lisa Blackwood in today's close racing on the final day of the worlds. Photo John Blackwood

The ten race regatta ended on a warm summer's afternoon in Hobart, with the south-easterly sea breeze of 10-15 knots, gusting to 18 knots, not only cooling conditions but also providing the 31 sailors with ideal racing weather for these small, single-handed one-design keelboats. Pascoe, a 29-year-old disabled sailor from Weymouth on the South Coast of England, confirmed her new status as 2016 world champion with a second in race nine while Bugg kept up his consistency with a fourth. However, Pascoe became involved in a minor entanglement with another competitor during race 10 and lost considerable ground taking her 'penalty turns'. She ended up 11th in fleet. Bugg lost vital time soon after the start when he appeared to hesitate in sailing to windward when an individual recall for a premature start was signaled. Two other yachts returned and restarted and the signal flag was lowered, meaning that Bugg was not a premature starter after making a near perfect start to the race. As the breeze freshened, Bugg, who last week won his sixth Australian championship, sailed his way through the fleet to finish eighth.

Both Pascoe and Bugg chose to drop yesterday's final results as their second discard from the 10 race series, leaving the British sailor with a net 13 points and the Tasmanian with a net 34 points. Third place overall went to New Zealand Paralympic sailor Paul Francis who improved his placings as the regatta processed, ending with a net 48 points.

The 14-boat contingent from Finland dominated results on the final day, winning race nine and filling the first four places in race 10 as they enjoyed the fresher sailing conditions. Jan Forsbom (FIN) won race nine from Megan Pascoe (GBR) and veteran Peter Russell (AUS) from Canberra, with Matt Bugg fourth in a shortened course race.

The fresher breeze clearly suited the Finnish sailor, with Niko Salomaa winning race 10 from Janne Laine, Jan Forsbom and Pauli Immonen. Paul Francis (NZL) came in fifth followed by well-known Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania member Stephen 'Rowdy' McCullum (AUS). McCullum placed a close sixth overall on 58 points followed by Lisa Blackwood (AUS) a member of the Derwent Sailing Squadron, on 61 points.

Next sailing for Megan Pascoe has not yet been decided as she just missed representing Great Britain at the Rio Paralympics but for Matt Bugg its soon off to Europe to continue regatta and training to represent Australia at Rio.