



2010 2.4mR Sail Melbourne

Sandringham Yacht Club, 13-17 December 2010



Sail Melbourne 2.4mR medallists gold Peter Russell, bronze Matt Bugg (silver Michael Leydon)



Josh McKenzie-Brown emerged safe but wet when Kookaburra was battered by a 45 knots storm (Photo: Justin Kelleher)

The Aussies were joined by two New Zealanders - Josh McKenzie-Brown and Brett Willcock for Sail Melbourne 2010 thanks to yacht charters by Allan Jones and Tim Moreland (at the last minute).

Both Australian Sailing Development Squad members Matt Bugg and Greg Hyde showed continued improvement to finish third and fourth respectively and win three of the eight races in challenging conditions.

Michael Leydon enjoyed good speed to be first at the top mark most races but Peter Russell sailed consistently to win four of the eight races and Sail Melbourne with a score of 10points.

In Race 2 Greg Hyde was mid fleet but on the second beat he went hard left to the shore, picked up the new breeze and jumped to the front of the fleet to record his first win in Sail Melbourne.

In Race 4 Michael Leydon refused to be run down by Peter Russell in a close battle to the line.

In Race 7 Greg Hyde continued his excellent starting to lead off the line and charge hard left into the new breeze. He was followed each step by Peter Russell who was again left in his wake as Greg recorded his second win – a clear tactical triumph.

In Race 8 the series leaders were tightly bunched when Matt Bugg surged past Peter Russell and Michael Leydon on the run to the finish to claim his first win in Sail Melbourne.

The storm! Enjoyable racing conditions were dramatically swept away by a cell burst with 35-45 knot winds just as Peter Russell approached the top mark for the second time. Skuds were painfully hanging on the wind waiting for survival, Lasers were cart wheeling down the course – it was a Dante scene in white! With impossible sailing conditions mainsails were quickly lowered in those that survived. Lisa Blackwood passed Peter Russell sitting at the top mark only to be swallowed by the third wave on the run – AUS 27 towed home. Simon Dunstone had rejoined the fleet after his second retirement with broken foot pedals only to be swamped for the first time – AUS 29 towed home. But the most worrying story was Josh McKenzie-Brown whose chartered boat was sunk by the storm – Josh was taken home while the SYC crew salvaged Kookaburra. **No more racing for the 2.4mR fleet at Sail Melbourne 2010!**

Sail Melbourne News

13th December 2009 - Light wind foils the superstars on day one of Sail Melbourne

Light winds have played havoc with the Sail Melbourne program on day one of the 2010/2011 ISAF Sailing World Cup at Sandringham Yacht Club where more than 400 crews have lined up for racing. Only seven classes managed to complete races. In the 2.4 Metre, three Australians head the leader board with Peter Russell's first and second giving him the lead over Michael Leydon (two, three) and Greg Hyde (seven, one). In the 2.4mR class ASDS member Greg Hyde is third following a seventh and a first while Matthew Bugg recorded a third and a fifth to be fourth overall.

14th December 2009 - Europeans relish shifting winds

From the shore, conditions looked vastly improved for the second day of the ISAF World Cup in Melbourne. However sailors in the Olympic classes racing this morning all told a different story. Mat Belcher described the conditions as difficult. "It was a lot in where you went on the course." He said there were wind holes everywhere and also commented that the sea breeze tried to come in but just made the conditions worse.

15th December 2009 - All racing called off

After a delay this morning due to strong winds the Sail Melbourne race committee announced at 11.30am that racing at the ISAF Sailing World Cup had been called off for the day. The reaction from most competitors was one of relief, as they huddled out of the rain and the howling winds. The Bureau of Meteorology has been tracking a cold front that is due to cross the Melbourne area early this afternoon. The current winds, already gusting over 30 knots, are predicted to increase throughout the afternoon before moderating later this evening.

16th December 2009 - Mixed Day for Aussie Sailors

With just three races to sail before Saturday's double-points medal race, the leader boards closed up at Sail Melbourne today. Steady morning winds faded during the day, making conditions tricky and catching some of the big names out. ASDS sailors Matthew Bugg and Greg Hyde are third and fourth respectively in the 2.4mR class with three races remaining on Friday.

17th December 2009 - Squall hits Sail Melbourne with a vengeance











Earlier today, British sailors Nick Thompson and Ben Ainslie virtually assured themselves of Gold medals at Sail Melbourne in shifty, overcast and very English conditions with only the medal races left to sail. However, the opening round of the ISAF Sailing World Cup was thrown into chaos when a severe rain squall accompanied by 40 knot winds came out of nowhere and spread-eagled the fleets.

Moderating as quickly as it began, the squall left a 2.4mR boat sunk, RS:X boards damaged and several sailors in the hands of the medical staff. The Principal Race Officer, Ross Wilson, assessed the damage before deciding not to send the fleets back out. He said that race management continually monitors all the wind beacons around Port Phillip Bay and none of them gave any indication of the severity of the storm.



Australian Sailing Development Squad member Matthew Bugg won Bronze in the 2.4mR class, finishing on a high by winning the final race of the regatta.

Overall Results 2.4mR

Pl	Name	Sail Num	Country	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total Points	Net Points
1	 Peter Russell	AUS28	AUS	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	(3)			13	10
2	 Michael Leydon	AUS24	AUS	2	3	2	1	2	4	(6)	2			22	16
3	 Matthew Bugg	AUS1	AUS	3	(5)	3	3	5	2	3	1			25	20
4	 Greg Hyde	AUS32	AUS	(7)	1	5	4	4	7	1	5			34	27
5	 Lisa Blackwood	AUS27	AUS	6	4	4	5	6	(8)	4	4			41	33
6	 Brett Willcock	NZL60	NZL	8	7	(9)	8	3	3	5	9			52	43
7	 Colin Brown	AUS10	AUS	5	8	7	6	(9)	6	8	7			56	47
8	 Peter Warren	AUS9	AUS	(9)	9	8	9	7	5	7	6			60	51
9	 Simon Dunstone	AUS29	AUS	4	6	10	(11) DNC	10	9	9	11 DNF			70	59
10	 Josh McKenzie-Brown	NZL2	NZL	(10)	10	6	7	8	10	10	8			69	59

Sail Melbourne, Race 8, photo story thanks to Justin Kelleher



Angles on the beat



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Laser troubles