



2023 2.4mR Australian Championship Hobart

Royal Yacht Club Tasmania, Hobart, Australia, 4-6 February 2023

Matt Bugg prevails to win 11th championship



Congratulations to the new National Champion Matt Bugg for his hard fought win from Rowdy McCullum and third Neil Patterson.

Thank you to the RYCT Race Management Team for once again providing top class courses, race management and rescue support.

Thank you to all interstate competitors for crossing the "ditch" and providing excellent one design racing.

RYCT Facebook

2.4mR Aus. Nationals – Day 1 – light winds pointed to a delayed start but the South Westerly stormed in around Mt Nelson challenging all sailors with winds veering port and starboard rewriting the results sheet in each race.

Three bullets to RYCT Vice Commodore Stephen McCullum set the podium alight – a new mast delivered to Hobart by Peter Warren on Wednesday performed beautifully. Matt Bugg hasn't lost any speed and finished the day with three second places. Reigning champion Neil Patterson was OCS in race 1. Peter Russell was fortunate in race 2 to pick up a port shift at the top mark and jump to third place.

So, after day 1 Stephen McCullum was first on 3 points, Matt Bugg was second on 6 points and Peter Russell was third on 15 points.



Gusty and shifty conditions – less twist Mark!



No room for mistakes in 2.4mR sailing

2.4mR Aus. Nationals – Day 2 – all forecasts advised 5 knots for the day as we debated using light wind headsail? NO, a fresh sea breeze entertained the fleet in the middle of the River Derwent.

Matt Bugg started to score bullets. Peter Russell snuck past Stephen McCullum at the pin end finish in Race 4 to finish second. John Collingwood new Super 3 took off in race 5 to lead the fleet around the course. Matt and Stephen met at the top mark in Race 5 with the port and starboard protest resulting in Stephen's disqualification. David Graney's mast broke at the deck in race 5 – he held the rig together to sail back to the club but his championship was over. Race 6 saw boats scatter left and right at the bottom mark in gusty conditions and Peter doing a 720 penalty after hitting Matt's boom (Matt was full of water after a pilot boat wave so just didn't take off at the rounding). Peter Warren's mast broke again at the deck in race 6 and he also limped home with his championship over.

So, after day 2 Stephen McCullum and Matt Bugg were tied for first on 8 points with Peter Russell and Neil Patterson tied for third on 20 points.



Close racing enjoyed by the fleet of 16 boats



Race 5 port/starboard at the top mark

2.4mR Aus. Nationals – Day 3 – a fresh North Westerly saw the fleet sailing out from the club to Battery Point. Wind shifts and tide made racing interesting at the top mark with port tackers not enjoying easy passage around the mark.

Two bullets to Matt Bugg secured his 11th championship win – an impregnable record! Stephen McCullum finished the day with two second places – a reversal of day 1, but both Matt and Stephen were a step above the rest of the fleet in Hobart's testing conditions. Neil Patterson blew Peter Russell away with two third places as Peter struggled with appalling starts.

Colin Brown sailed his best championship ever, in any class in his distinguished sailing career, finishing sixth overall including two fourth places! Eric Hines tested his new skills to finish a creditable tenth in his first 2.4mR championship. Mastless Peter Warren and David Graney were kept busy on an additional rescue boat.



Matt & Stephen close battle to the last race



Colin Brown's sixth a personal best in all classes

Congratulations to Matt Bugg (10 points) finishing in first place, Stephen McCullum (12 points) in second place and Neil Patterson (26 points) in third place.

Gary Bunyard from RBYC won the regatta point score trophy for most improved over the series.

It was great to see new 2.4mR sailors Eric Hines, Gary Bunyard and Josh Stuchbery enjoying learning to sail a classic boat.

Thanks to the RYCT race team and all volunteers for another great regatta.

Peter Warren's Hobart adventure

The 2023 2.4mR national championship was hosted by the RYCT in Hobart with up to 8 races over 3 days.

The Canberra boats arrived in 2 groups. Eric and Peter W boats on the Thursday, Colin, Mark and Peter R boats on the Friday. Peter W and Eric rigged on Thursday afternoon and finished on Friday morning allowing a test sail on Friday. The other 3 boats were rigged on Friday but not with enough time for a test sail. The usefulness of the test sail was shown as Mark's boat needed some adjustments while heading out for the first race due to incorrect set up. Hard to get good help these days.

Saturday was the first racing day with strong winds from (more or less) SW. With the tide running out, the sea state was interesting, the winds shifty and interesting sailing. Peter W was coming 4th in the first race but hit the top mark and was passed by 6 boats during the requisite penalty and ended the day with a 9, 12, 10 result. Not sailing especially well but coming 9th overall.

Sunday was an interesting day with a fresh sea breeze (not forecast) with 3 very close races. Peter W with a 5 and a 6 in the first two races but a broken mast in the 3rd race of the day meant the end of the regatta. Final result 11th. Oh well, next year! This was the second mast broken in the regatta with an earlier one in practice sessions made it an unusual event.

On the Monday, two races were sailed, with Peter W manning an additional rescue boat. Two events from that day. One of the competitors sailed right across the river and could not see the start boat, so he was guided back to the race area, and one of the boats suffered steering failure and was towed back to the club.

All in all a great regatta with very good race management.

Overall Results (drops = 1)

Pl	Name	Boat	Sail Num	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total Pts	Net Pts
1	Matt Bugg	Supermodel	AUS41	RYCT	(2)	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	12	10
2	Stephen McCullum	Lowlife	AUS43	RYCT	1	1	1	3	(17) DSQ	2	2	2	29	12
3	Neil Patterson	Digger	AUS878	RBYC	(17) OCS	4	4	5	4	3	3	3	43	26
4	Peter Russell	Morna 7	AUS40	YMSC	(6)	3	6	2	3	6	4	6	36	30
5	Peter Coleman	Australia II.IV	AUS1010	RBYC	5	5	5	(7)	6	4	5	4	41	34
6	Colin Brown	Fab Babs	AUS44	YMSC	4	7	(17) DNF	4	7	9	8	7	63	46
7	John Collingwood	Joey	AUS34	RBYC	(17) DNS	6	3	12	1	5	17 DNF	5	66	49
8	Raymond Smith	Rocky	AUS808	RBYC	(17) OCS	13	8	8	9	7	6	9	77	60
9	Mark Seager	Whitewash	AUS14	RBYC	7	11	(13)	9	10	8	9	8	75	62
10	Eric Hines	The Shmoo	AUS10	YMSC	8	(15)	14	11	8	10	11	10	87	72
11	Peter Warren	Advance Australia	AUS9	YMSC	9	12	10	6	5	(17) DNF	17 DNC	17 DNC	93	76
12	Mark Durnan	Blue Gum	AUS47	YMSC	11	10	12	(15)	11	11	10	11	91	76
13	David Graney	What Could Possibly Go Wrong	AUS39	RYCT	3	8	7	10	(17) DNF	17 DNC	17 DNC	17 DNC	96	79
14	Gary Bunyard	Southern Cross	AUS12	RBYC	12	(14)	9	14	13	12	7	12	93	79
15	Glenn Norton	Squeezebox	AUS32	RBYC	10	9	11	(17) OCS	12	17 DNC	17 DNS	17 DNC	110	93
16	Josh Stuchbery	Dame Pattie	AUS2	RBYC	13	16	15	13	14	13	(17) DNF	17 DNC	118	101