



2016 2.4mR Australian Championship Hobart

Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, 2-4 January 2016

by Peter Campbell, reprinted from <http://www.ryct.org.au/index.php/sailing>

Matt Bugg wins sixth 2.4mR Nationals

Day 1 Matt Bugg's good start in 2.4mR regatta

Tasmanian Matt Bugg is overall leader in the Australian National Championship for the International 2.4mR class after day one of racing on Hobart's River Derwent.



Start of the first race at the International 2.4mR Australian championship on Hobart's River Derwent. Photo Angus Calvert.

The fleet of 29 yachts sailed in a fresh but chilly southerly breeze with Finland's Janne Laine narrowly beating Bugg in the first race.

Bugg dominated race two, with Laine placing third, giving the defending Australian champion a one-point lead over Laine, one of 12 Finnish sailors contesting the Nationals and then next week's World championship.



Thirty sailors, both able-bodied and disabled from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and Finland are contesting the Australian championship leading up to the World Championship.

Third overall after day one is another Finnish sailor, Jan Forsbom who had two fourth places, while fourth is Australian Michael Leydon from Canberra with an 8-2 score.

Prominent British disabled woman sailor Megan Pascoe sailed a good race for third in race one, but slipped to ninth in race two and is sixth overall.

A third Finnish sailor, Pauli Immonen, is fifth overall with a fifth and sixth today. Six Finnish sailors are in the top 10 on the leader board.

Day 2 Matt Bugg's grip on sixth 2.4mR national title

Australian Paralympic sailor Matt Bugg is sailing brilliantly on his home waters in his last major regatta before the Rio Games, holding a commanding overall lead in the Australian championship for the International 2.4mR class.



Matt Bugg (sail number 36) wins the start in one of today's races on the Derwent, Photo Angus Calvert,

Bugg has followed his bronze and silver medal successes at the international regattas on Melbourne's Port Phillip last month by winning three of the first five races in the Nationals and placing second in the other two races today.

It augers well for his prospects to win his first World Championship in the single-handed keelboat class which starts on Hobart's River Derwent on Wednesday.

After five races, the Tasmanian sailor is on 7 points, with his nearest rivals, Finnish sailors Jan Forsbom and Janne Laine sharing second place overall on 15 points each.

Forsbom narrowly beat Bugg in the first race yesterday, but the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and Derwent Sailing Squadron sailor picked the wind shifts perfectly to win the next two races. He correctly anticipated a significant wind shift to the east to clinch the final race of the day.

Forsbom's score after five races, with two to sail, has been 4-4-1-2-4 while Laine's card reads 1-3-5-3-3.

In fourth place is well-known paraplegic sailor from Britain, Megan Pascoe, who sailed consistently in the light to moderate south-easterly sea breezes, and is on 29 points with a score of 3-9-6-6-5.



The Finnish effort in sending a container load of the small keelboats to Australia following the 2015 Worlds in Finland is paying dividends with five of their team in the top ten after five races. Rikard Bjurström is fifth overall and Niko Salomaa sixth.

Hobart sailor Lisa Blackwood, one of the stalwarts of the 2.4mR class in Tasmania moved up to seventh overall yesterday with an 11-5-7 to be on 45 points.

The only other Australian in the top 10 is Sydney and Athens Paralympic representative Peter Thompson from Canberra who is eighth while fellow Canberra sailor Peter Russell in 11th who finished third in race three yesterday.

Matt Bugg wins 2.4mR Nationals

Local sailing hero Matt Bugg today clinched a brilliant victory in the International 2.4mR Australian open championship by winning the final race in grand style on Hobart's River Derwent.



Australian champion again, Matt Bugg racing yesterday with Niko Salomma (FIN). Photo Angus Calvert.

The Worlds are in now firmly in his sight, starting on the river on Thursday, although Bugg is forecasting a tougher contest with the Finnish and British sailors getting to know the Derwent and its vagaries. Bugg, who is expected to be named as Australia's representative in the sailing at the Rio Paralympics within a few weeks, finished fourth in race six "covering my nearest opponents from Finland". This was his discard race, in any case. In the final race the Tasmanian won the start and sailed away to his fourth win in the seven race championship. His other placings were two seconds and fourth (his discard).



Finnish sailors filled the next two placings in the 35 boat fleet, Janne Laine taking second place by one point from Jan Forsbom, with British woman sailor Megan Pascoe taking fourth overall.

This is the sixth consecutive national open championship win by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania member, but a world championship title or Paralympic medal so far eludes Bugg.

"In race six I set out to cover my nearest opposition from Finland, but in race seven I just sailed my own race, picking a big wind shift to ensure a last race win," Bugg said.

"I am very happy with my boat, it's going perfectly; I am well prepared, but the Worlds later this week will be tougher as the top visiting sailors have now had a good test of sailing on the Derwent," he added.

Winner of race six yesterday was 64-year-old Peter Thompson from Canberra who represented Australia at the Paralympic sailing at Athens and Sydney. Thompson picked some major wind shifts after two general recalls and a black flag which saw five boats 'black flagged': Rikard Bjurstrom (FIN), Stephen McCullum (AUS), Peter Russell (AUS), Per Stromman (FIN) and Neil Patterson (AUS). "They apparently misjudged the strength of the current," a race officer commented later.

Megan Pascoe (GBR) was top placed woman sailor, finishing fourth overall while Tasmanian Lisa Blackwood (AUS) was second woman but more significantly second Australian in the 25 boat fleet, finishing eighth overall ahead of Peter Thompson, Michael Leydon and New Zealander Paul Francis.



AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONS

Janne Laine (FIN) second, Matt Bugg (AUS) first and Jan Forsbom (FIN) third (left to right)



International 2.4mR Australian and World Championships

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
January 2016



Overall Results - Australian Championships

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Pl	Name	Boat	Sail Num	Bow Num	Country	State	Club	Race Number							Points	
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Points	Net Points
1	Matt BUGG	Moshi	36	13	AUS		RYCT	2	1	2	1	1	(4)	1	12	8
2	Janne LAINE	Blue Pearl	131	25	FIN		Naantali sailing club	1	3	5	3	3	6	(12)	33	21
3	Jan FORSBOM	Wenda	133	14	FIN		NPS	4	4	1	2	4	7	(9)	31	22
4	Megan PASCOE	The Brain	121	03	GBR		Weymouth sc	3	(9)	6	6	5	3	5	37	28
5	Niko SALOMAA	VOITTO II	173	06	FIN		TPS	15	5	4	4	8	2	(31) DNF	69	38
6	Pauli IMMONEN	Wind 18	166	08	FIN		NPS	5	6	(17)	14	6	10	2	60	43
7	Rikard BJURSTROM		184	02	FIN			6	11	7	9	2	(31) BFD	10	76	45
8	Lisa BLACKWOOD	Smiley Face	39	26	AUS		Derwent Sailing Squadron	(14)	8	11	5	7	11	8	64	50
9	Peter THOMPSON	Morna7	40	07	AUS		YMCASC	9	7	12	10	12	1	(16)	67	51
10	Michael LEYDON	Kurpitsa	46	27	AUS		YMCASC	8	2	14	17	14	(21)	4	80	59
11	Paul FRANCIS		105	32	NZL			11	(14)	8	8	10	12	13	76	62
12	Stephen MCCULLUM	Lowlife	43	23	AUS		Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania	10	15	10	16	11	(31) BFD	7	100	69
13	Peter RUSSELL	Jeelka	28	16	AUS		YMCASC	12	18	3	11	9	(31) BFD	19	103	72
14	Andrew MAY		92	29	NZL		Naval Point Club Lyttelton	13	12	(15)	15	13	14	11	93	78
15	Per STROMMAN		180	18	FIN		Wasa Segelf rening WSF	19	13	9	12	17	(31) BFD	21	122	91
16	Neil PATTERSON	Rocky	38	28	AUS		RBVC	21	16	13	7	16	(31) BFD	20	124	93
17	Antti KOKKALA		111	11	FIN		RPS	25	17	16	(31) OCS	18	15	3	125	94
18	Veikko MARTIN	***	172	12	FIN			7	10	(31) DNC	31 DNC	31 DNC	9	6	125	94
19	Neil SHEPHARD	Growler	18	10	AUS		RYCT	24	25	19	(31) OCS	15	13	15	142	111
20	Nisse WEST		182	04	FIN		Wasa Yacht Club	16	23	25	(31) OCS	20	5	24	144	113
21	Ian ROSS	Dame Pattie	2	21	AUS		RYCT	(31) DNF	27	22	22	26	8	14	150	119
22	Kaj GORAN ANTILA	Pia	139	15	FIN		WSF	(27)	19	18	13	21	25	23	146	119
23	Sauli YLITALO	Pattinki	108	22	FIN		HeiYC	(26)	26	21	18	19	18	17	145	119
24	Simon DUNSTONE	Tumbleweed	29	20	AUS		YMCASC	17	20	(24)	20	23	19	22	145	121
25	Peter JOHN WARREN	Advance Australia	9	05	AUS		YMCA Sailing Club	23	24	23	19	(27)	20	18	154	127
26	Colin BAYLEY BROWN	Lilla Babs	10	24	AUS		Canberra Yacht Club	20	22	(27)	23	22	17	25	156	129
27	Ron BUGG	Supermodel	33	30	AUS		DSS/RYCT	18	21	26	21	25	23	(29)	163	134
28	Mark DURNAN	Patch	25	19	AUS		YMCASC	22	(28)	20	24	24	22	27	167	139
29	Malcolm COOPER	Speed Bump	35	31	AUS		DSS	(31) DNC	31 DNC	28	25	28	16	28	187	156
30	Hannu JAUHIAINEN		107	17	FIN		Tehin Pursiseura	28	(29)	29	26	29	24	26	191	162