



ARYA National Championships 2018

International One Metre

15 – 18 February 2018
Montrose Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

February in Hobart is generally regarded as one of the best months for stable weather, typically warm days with a Northerly in the morning followed by a SE sea breeze in the afternoon, so when the first day of the IOM championships began at Montrose Bay in extremely windy conditions it took everyone by surprise.

After a brief flirt with B Rigs the fleet quickly changed down to C and remained in that configuration for the remainder of day one. The wind averaged 27 knots gusting to 40, producing some hairy downwind sailing as boats ploughed down big waves flitting left and right to avoid nosedives. On upwind reaches yachts were almost flattened. Fortunately, there were no high speed collisions, although local Peter Sylvester ran out of luck when the force of his hull hitting a wave caused the battery hatch to pop off and the yacht, instantly taking on water, promptly sank.

After four races (three heats per race), the day finished with the best national skippers showing their class with Greg Torpy (Qld) in first place followed by Sean Bennett (WA) and Paul Jones (NSW). The international contingent of seven New Zealand skippers were also starting to find form with Philip Pryde and Paul Johnson advancing through the rankings.

Day two again commenced in windy conditions, but the weather moderated during the morning with skippers switching to B Rigs at lunchtime, and remained in that configuration for the rest of the day.

Principal Race Officer, Jeff Byerley, used all his international experience and knowledge of local conditions to maintain courses that were true taking into account wind strengths, shifts and significant tidal currents. The starting line was made longer to maximise the number of boats with a fair start. Windward marks and the downwind gate were laid according to average wind direction, and well spaced, to allow helms to develop a feel for the course. In turn, this allowed for tactical decision making around opponents, gusts, shifts, currents and waves, resulting in exciting racing with plenty of changes in places right up to the finish line.

By the end of the second day Paul Jones (NSW) had moved into first place on 21 points ahead of Sean Wallis and Ross Bennett, both from WA, tied on 25 points. Greg Torpy (Qld) and Scott Condie (NSW) rounded out the top five on another tie of 27 points and the championship was still wide open.

Day three commenced with a good news story as a diver rose from the depths with Peter Sylvester's sunken boat held aloft Excalibur like. On the racecourse we saw an engrossing day of sailing, mostly on B Rigs, but strong winds returned with a change in the afternoon causing skippers to go back down to C Rigs as a result.

The top three places (Ross Bennett, Paul Jones and Scott Condie) all finished the day on a tie of 45 points with Sean Wallis (48 points) still in the hunt. Greg Torpy started to lose touch on 75 points as a result of gear failure. The New Zealand challenge, which had started to pick up momentum on day two, also faltered through gear problems and complete absence of luck for Philip Pryde in particular who managed to chew through four winches.

A calm day with a gentle NNW breeze greeted skippers on the last day of competition, replacing, at last, the unrelenting strong winds that prevailed over the first three.

Naturally, A Rigs were on as racing got underway, but as the breeze picked up rigs dropped back to B.

The four skippers competing for the national champion commenced the day well taking out the top places in the first two races and the prize remained anyone's as the fleet broke for lunch.

After lunch the wind swung to the SE, which generally means more pressure and resulted in a change in the orientation of the course for skippers. Only Paul Jones retained his consistency with Condie, Wallis and Bennett all falling out of the top placings in the heats.

By the start of the final race Paul Jones was four points clear, and in reality, only he himself could lose the championship from there with a bad race. It wasn't to be – Paul retained the consistency he is renowned for to take out the trophy by nine points ahead of Scott Condie, Sean Wallis and Ross Bennett who were tied on 56 points. The tie break count back saw them finish in that order.

The 2018 National Championships in Hobart was a thorough examination of radio sailing skill – skippers were tested in all environments and with all three rigs. The top placegetters can rightly claim to be champions in the International One Metre class, and consistency was the greatest factor in Paul Jones' deserved victory.

Most skippers also remarked that the Montrose Bay facility provided world class conditions for radio sailing with a configuration that allowed for true courses to be set in any winds, and an elevated shoreline for skippers to adequately sail their crafts with good visibility.

Final results:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Paul Jones (NSW) – 47 points | 25 Doug Allen (Qld) – 318 |
| 2 Scott Condie (NSW) – 56 | 26 Jerry Brower (USA) – 332 |
| 3 Sean Wallis (WA) – 56 | 27 David Jones (Tas) – 335 |
| 4 Ross Bennett (WA) – 56 | 28 John Beavis (NZ) – 387 |
| 5 Greg Torpy (Qld) – 119.2 | 29 Peter Sherwood (Qld) – 404 |
| 6 Lindsay Walker (NSW) – 140 | 30 Russell Gray (Qld) – 408 |
| 7 Philip Pryde (NZ) – 156 | 31 John Gower (Qld) – 415 |
| 8 Lisa Blackwood (Tas) – 157.3 | 32 Richard Harradine (NSW) – 433 |
| 9 Paul Johnson (NZ) – 163 | 33 Allan Walker (Qld) – 440 |
| 10 Aaron Farrar (Qld) – 171 | 34 Nigel Sibun (NZ) – 449.6 |
| 11 Michael Hickman (Tas) – 187 | 35 Kyle Stewart (Tas) – 475 |
| 12 Andrew Reid (Vic) – 190 | 36 Norm Wallis (SA) – 502 |
| 13 Rod Jackman (Tas) – 192 | 37 John Obrien (NZ) – 525 |
| 14 John Cole-Cook (Tas) – 215 | 38 Peter Burford (Qld) – 537 |
| 15 Ben Taylor (NSW) – 218 | 39 Ants Hurdley (NZ) – 538 |
| 16 Edgar Vitte (WA) – 222 | 40 Ray Wilson (Qld) – 552 |
| 17 Chris Wood (Tas) – 229 | 41 Stephen Early (Vic) – 554 |
| 18 Patrick Parisienne (Vic) – 231 | 42 Michael Cosgriff (Vic) – 625 |
| 19 Ray Joyce (Tas) – 255.3 | 43 Peter Darcey (Tas) 630 |
| 20 Andrew Wilson (Qld) – 260 | 44 David Page (NSW) – 643 |
| 21 Robert Mews (WA) – 275 | 45 Phillip Page (NSW) – 679 |
| 22 Bruce Edgar (NZ) – 282 | 46 Brian Long (VIC) – 709 |
| 23 Scott Fleming (VIC) – 298 | 47 Rod Marshall (Tas) – 719 |
| 24 Peter Buchanan (WA) - 307 | 48 Peter Sylvester (Tas) - 732 |

Robert Gavin with input from Paul Johnson (New Zealand) and PRO Jeff Byerley
7 March 2018