



## ARYA National Championships 2018

### International Ten Rater

19 – 21 February 2018  
Montrose Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

Eleven skippers took to the course with their International ten rater yachts to contest the Australian Championships – three Tasmanians, three West Australians, three Victorians, a Queenslander and one skipper from New South Wales.

Only one of them was in a Trance – Victorian Andrew Reid, sailing number 74, a Brad Gibson designed yacht built by Scott Condie. The Trance design is still relatively new, first finished in December 2013, won the 2014 Australian Nationals in its first outing, skippered by Condie who also went on to finish 2nd to Graham Bantock in Western Australia 2015 and then win the 2016 in Adelaide in Trance 1 and then the 2017 Nationals in the BG modified Trance at Kogarah Bay.

Scott Condie was PRO for the 2018 championships, a task he went about with good humour and a style you could call “assertively laid back”.

The regatta started in a light to moderate SE breeze with all skippers adopting a full rig. As the day wore on the wind moved to SW and became progressively more stiff, skippers reefing down to “D” rigs at the end of the day. Plenty of gear failure also occurred.

However, the story of the first day was the amazing performance of the Trance which literally blew away all opponents, particularly on upwind legs. The Diamonds, sailed by Ross Bennett (WA), Ben Taylor (NSW), Greg Torpy (Qld), and Denton Roberts (WA) were fighting hard, but it was Sean Wallis sailing his Sanga by Steve Sedgmen who also kept Andy on his toes

By the end of the day wily Ross Bennett managed to eek out some convincing wins, over the Trance skipper Andrew Reid.

At the close of day one, Mr Bennett had narrowed the gap to Andrew Reid 27 to 22 points respectively.

Light winds and mostly clear skies greeted competitors on the second day of the Championships. The first race got underway in a 5 knot North Easterly, but soon after the start the breeze dropped to virtually nothing and spectators were treated to a duel in light winds, eventually won by Ross Bennett with Tasmanian Mike Hickman in second and Sean Wallis third.

With no wind, racing was postponed until after lunch when a light sea breeze turned up. The lighter conditions evened up the competition considerably and

spectators were treated to some great racing with Greg Torpy taking out five of the twelve races and Sean Wallis first across the line in three.

Meanwhile, Ross Bennett remained in the hunt pegging back the lead to draw even with Andrew Reid at one point but as the breeze filled in the Trance was back in its element and Reid finished the day with his only win in the last race to remain firmly in the lead with a nine point gap (47 - 56) between him and Bennett at the close.

The forecast for day three was for more light winds but competitors had smiles on their faces as they arrived with the course bathed in an eight knot NE breeze that remained steady all morning.

Some entertaining racing was conducted by nine remaining skippers with spectators taking a great deal of interest in the duel for second spot between Sean Wallis and Ross Bennett. Sean sailed well to be running neck and neck by the second last race, then surprised everyone by leaving the course to pack up his Sanga and catch a plane back to Perth. Ross Bennett duly obliged in the last race with a win to take out second place in the championships.

Locally, all three Tasmanian skippers boats were fraught with a range of gear failure and other calamities ... the ten rater is not sailed often in these parts, so perhaps excusable! By the second day Michael Hickman got the hang of his borrowed ten rater from Yoda of Red Ant Yachts to record a win and some good places during the day in a good display of helming. He also went on to win the Sportsmanship award for the event, judged by PRO Scott Condie.

Participation in this event was conducted in an excellent manner and all participants should be proud of themselves. A world class venue and team which is the envy of the country

Final results:

1 Andrew Reid (Vic) - 54 points	7 Michael Hickman (Tas) - 204
2 Ross Bennett (WA) - 71	8 Andrew Crocker (Vic) - 226
3 Sean Wallis (WA) - 78	9 Denton Roberts (WA) - 231
4 Greg Torpy (Qld) - 120	10 Lisa Blackwood (Tas) 280
5 David Thomas (Vic) - 151	11 John Cole-Cook (Tas) 325
6 Ben Taylor (NSW) - 154	

Robert Gavin and Scott Condie  
27 February 2018