



ARYA National Championships 2018

International Marblehead

22 – 24 February 2018
Montrose Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

The 2018 Marblehead Championships was conducted at Montrose Bay in Tasmania by 16 skippers including nine Tasmanians, five Victorians, one from NSW and a Queenslander.

The first day was a pretty one sided affair with Scott Condie, sailing his “Indie”, a Brad Gibson lines plan based on the successful “Grunge” but with a softer bilge line without the sharpness of a hard chine. Brad reports that skipper built Indie’s are performing strongly around the world, including NZ and Europe. He can now add Hobart to that list because Scott completely dominated the fleet presenting a master class of radio yacht sailing.

He has fantastic concentration coupled with a great laid back style that allows him to relax at every opportunity - on top of his outstanding knowledge of sailing both tactically and technically. What a fantastic package - and on day one there was no other skipper able to match him.

Sailing was conducted in a stiffening but consistent sea breeze in the afternoon. Most skippers found the conditions true but some got themselves into trouble through bad decisions or lack of communication. Unfortunately, Victorian Kirwan Robb had gear trouble that kept him out of four races and effectively ended his chance of finishing at the top of the competition.

Day two of the ARYA Marblehead National Championships was a fascinating study in fleet racing by some of Australia's best radio sailors.

While Scott Condie stole day one, and effectively the championships, day two was a much more even affair with some very close racing and the lead changing several times through most races.

Victorians Andrew Reid, Scott Fleming, Kirwan Robb and Queenslander Greg Torpy all showed great skills throughout the day with Kirwan logging five wins and four seconds - it's a pity he had gear difficulties on the first day!

Not to be outdone, Scott Condie recorded four wins, three seconds and three thirds even though he went through a lacklustre period mid morning when he couldn't seem to take a trick.

Most races were very close with the lead changing several times each race depending on race tactics, the ability of skippers to pick shifts in conditions, and of course, some luck! Ross Bennett as PRO is to be commended for keeping the course honest with some well chosen buoy shifts.

The day commenced with locals Lisa Blackwood and John Cole-Cook in second and third, but the Tasmanian contingent faded under the pressure of the interstate skippers. At the end of the day Ray Joyce was the best placed Tasmanian in fourth with Jeff Byerley in fifth and John Cole-Cook in sixth.

Ray was sailing his brand new Grunge for the first time and still shaking out the creases – nevertheless, he was frequently at the sharp end of the fleet with a win, three seconds and five thirds. – perhaps signalling he is going to be a force to be reckoned with in local competitions.

The competition went into the third day with the top three well ahead of any rivals, and each separated by fair margins which meant the results were mostly a foregone conclusion. Just as well really because the weather was lousy with a drenching steady rain that gradually seeped in through every layer of protection. Then, after a few races, the wind dropped to virtually nothing and competition was called to a halt. What racing that was held was very tight and competitive, and enough races were conducted for Kirwin Robb to move up to fifth place.

Tasmanian Wayne Behrens was credited by PRO Ross Bennett as the winner of the Sportsmanship Award.

Final results:

1 Scott Condie (NSW) – 48 points	9 Greg Torpy (Qld) – 186 points
2 Andrew Reid (Vic) – 110	10 Andrew Crocker (Vic) – 237
3 Scott Fleming (Vic) – 113	11 David Thomas (Vic) - 242
4 Ray Joyce (Tas) - 125	12 Andrew Wardrop (Tas) – 249
5 Kirwin Robb (Vic) – 135	13 Wayne Behrens (Tas) - 258
6 Jeff Byerley (Tas) – 143	14 Kyle Stewart (Tas) – 337
7 John Cole-Cook (Tas) - 152	15 Peter Sylvester (Tas) - 347
8 Lisa Blackwood (Tas) – 158.9	16 Rod Marshall (Tas) - 381

Robert Gavin,
27 February 2018