

A Class State Championship, 2014

Hosted by: Koonawarra Bay Sailing Club, Lake Illawarra
11-12th October

There were a total of 12 entrants listed for the weekend. All well oiled and practiced ready to go to battle. In perfect sunshine racing started with the wind coming from the NE at 3 knots and building up to 10 knots by late afternoon.



Unfortunately, early in the day Andrew Sands retired with winch trouble while Pat O'Donnell had transmitter problems.

The fleet was made up of a number of Bantock designs Sword , Privateer , Gunboat and also a Sweet 9, Venom and a Dragon Fly (designed and built by Yeoman Sands).



Early on the Saturday as the wind strength grew the two Sword boats of Brian Dill (reigning NSW Champion) and Warren Norrie and the Sweet 9 skippered by Garry Declauzel scored most of the victories. Selwyn Holland in his Privateer scored a few wins also showing off his sail making skills with One Piece Luff Pocket Sails (rarely seen on A Class yachts). Most of the Gunboats also performed surprisingly well given 4 of the boats had only been completed 6 weeks before.



Sunday was almost identical to Saturday with the wind again from the NE from 4 to 13 knots.

As the wind picked up there were a few collisions but no major damage to the yachts. During the 2 days there was only one protest dispute so most of



the racing was carried out at a brisk pace and handled well by the PRO Garry Bromley. During the afternoon the waves and wind took their toll as 2 yachts had rudder breakage and damage and had to withdraw. During this time Jon Pinkerton and Laurie Hinchcliffe had some good races and kept the leaders on their toes.

That left 8 boats to battle out the last races on B rig in very trying conditions. The last race of the day may have decided the title as Brian Dill had weed on his rudder and came in a very disappointing last.



When all the scores were tallied Warren Norrie came First 6 points ahead of Brian Dill with Garry Declauzel third and Jon Pinkerton fourth. Warren has only been involved in the A Class for a short time but has always come in the top 3 of many events and now has added the NSW Title to his medal tally Well done Warren !!!!

Wollongong Model Yacht Club must be very proud to have Brian Dill 2nd nationals 2014, Selwyn Holland 2nd nationals 2013 and now Warren NSW State Champ 2014. Very impressive for a club with a small membership.



1st Warren Norrie (left)
2nd Brian Dill (middle)
3rd Gary Declauzel (right)



John Heard was given the Sportsman Award and in his first regatta came in a very well deserved 5th.

