



2016

NSW IOM State Championship

19th and 20th November 2016

Hosted by Kogarah Bay Radio Yacht Club.

Thirty four skippers competed in the regatta which included raiders from 5 states and territories hoping to take away the prestigious NSW silverware. The raiders were from Victoria (3), Queensland (5), Western Australia (3), South Australia (1) and the ACT (2). A very big effort from all our interstate visitors and thank you for your support. The remaining skippers were from the Sydney clubs and clubs north and south of Sydney. This field was hot with most of the top ranked skippers from around the country attending, many using the event as a last chance to get some valuable practice in on the upcoming National Titles course, thus guaranteeing some close and very competitive racing. Observers for the weekend came from the fleets not sailing and most skippers had at least one turn observing over the weekend.

After a very hot Friday a Southerly change moved in during the early hours of Saturday morning and all skippers elected to start the day with their number 2 rigs. Saturday's PRO Phil Page got racing underway with three fleets at the scheduled 10 am and kept things moving at a brisk pace all day. A windward return course of two and a bit laps with a gate at the bottom and a finish towards to the top marks was used. Unfortunately the rising tide and the southerly breeze brought ribbon weed into the bay and every skipper's performance was challenged by the weed at some stage. Those competent at the removal of weed from their fins were rewarded during these testing morning heats. After lunch the weed had almost all disappeared and there was much less blue language and rock kicking in the control area. The breeze had abated somewhat and swung more to the south east and a few skippers changed up to their number 1 rig. Twenty heats or almost seven races were completed on the day. Scott Backhouse finished the day sitting in first with 11 points including 3 consecutive race wins to finish the day, Andrew Reid was sitting second on 14 points after some very consistent performances and Owen Jarvis was third on 19 points and was the early regatta leader after 3 races.



Race action on Saturday



Anne Walker, PRO Phil Page and Jane Fleming. Thanks

Sunday's PRO Allan Bicknell got racing underway with the A fleet right on time in a steady Easterly breeze. All skippers elected to use number 1 rig. A three lap windward return course was set with a running finish. Yesterdays weed was nowhere to be seen which was a big relief for both organisers and competitors. The breeze grew stronger as the day went on and also flicked to the North slightly, giving glimpses of going Nor East. All skippers elected to use number two rigs late in the day. At the end of the event, twelve races had been completed with only one protest heard over the weekend. Congratulations goes to Scott Backhouse from Kogarah Bay Radio Yacht Club for being crowned the 2016 NSW IOM

Champion. Andy Reid continued his consistent results to take out second place from Paul Jones in third.



Scott Condie presents Allan Bicknell with his thankyou gift. Some say after treatment like this Allan will never come back.

These events don't just happen by magic and the two PROs Phil Page and Allan Bicknell did a fantastic job and kept the racing moving. They were ably assisted by Australia's world class fleet manager and scorer Anne Walker and her able assistant Jane Fleming. Thanks very much ladies, you were fantastic. Thanks too to the KBRYC members who assisted and John Lewis from KBSC who provided lunch on both days.

Garth Halton from 360 Sails donated a gift certificate redeemable for any suit of IOM sails and Len Hearing who travelled all the way from SA was presented with the "360 Sails" gift certificate. Thanks very much to Garth and 360 Sails for this very generous prize.

Thanks also to Scott Condie for an entertaining presentation.

Photos by Selwyn Holland

More photos by Paul and Carola Derwent here

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sarpn3tdcuuyurok/AADUwuBPtyvoyHwCTjzb30fja?dl=0>

