

2017 IOM State Championship

Lake Macquarie Radio Yacht Club 18/19th November

Edwards Park on beautiful Lake Macquarie was the location for the 2017 International One Metre State Championship hosted by the Lake Macquarie Radio Yacht Club. The event was held on Saturday and Sunday contested by some of the best model yacht sailors on the Australian east coast.

Weather for the Saturday event ranged from gusty North Easter with a healthy one foot swell with the occasional white cap. The occasional shower kept the event interesting though the forecast rainfall of up to 10mm fortunately didn't eventuate. Mostly B rigs were sails of choice though occasional C rig was used.

Sunday involved some gusty east to south east winds with a slightly smaller swell than Saturday. A rigs were chosen by all and produced some trying conditions at the peak of the gusts causing the occasional pitch – pole.

27 entrants were split in to A and B fleets with 6 going up and down after each race. Sunday saw a few withdrawals resulting in the entrants dropping to 4 up and down within the two fleets.

Phil Page, the PRO, set a very nice windward/leeward course with the top mark comprising a clearance bouy and the bottom mark being a gate allowing sailors to split strategies. Sailing was generally well behaved with some close-hauled boats on port coming into the top mark causing some excitement.



The first three places were separated by only 12 points showing the level of consistency of the skippers. Paul Jones on 49, Scott Backhouse on 55, and Allan Walker on 61 points filled the top three places after 19 races. As a point of interest, the average finishing position or points per race were 3.06 points compared to 3.81 for third. It also appears that the new design V10 still have some tuning to do as the Britpops dominated the top ten six to three with a total of eight Britpops and five V10s for the event..

Selwyn Holland's 3D printed "Shuffle" caused a lot of interest finishing mid pack but possibly showing the way of the future for yacht manufacture and prototyping. Printed with PLA and epoxy reinforced, this boat was certainly tested with the conditions showing no signs of any structural weakness.

Many thanks must go to the interstate and travelling participants who made this event a pleasure to attend. It should also be noted the efficiency of the scorers Anne and Jane who did an absolutely excellent job in some trying conditions. Also, thanks to the volunteers who gave up their free time to help run this event.







