



## Championship Report – 2010 NSW RC Laser State Title

On the weekend of 20/21 February, Dobroyd RC Lasers hosted the 2010 NSW championship with a field of thirteen competitors including visitors from Perth and Melbourne. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive NSW RC Laser championship and, like in past years, the event was characterised by good humoured competition and wonderful camaraderie between competitors, officials, helpers and spectators.

We trialled a new format involving a late afternoon start on Saturday followed by a barbeque dinner and a full day's sailing on Sunday. This got a big thumbs up from the skippers and enabled twenty-two races to be completed at a comfortable and enjoyable pace.

Sailing conditions were sensational with the D sails hoisted for the first Saturday afternoon races, C sails as the breeze lessened in the Saturday twilight, A sails in light flukey winds on Sunday morning and B sails throughout Sunday afternoon. Sydney laid on brilliant warm, sunny weather and mainly nor'easters helping to make it a very memorable weekend.

Pat O'Brien sailed sensationally to pick up the gold medal, bettering his 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in last year's inaugural national championship and showing he will be hard to beat if he competes at this year's nationals. Pat won seven of the twenty-two races interspersed with seven seconds, two thirds and three fourths yielding a paltry 39 points.

Graham Brown, Mr Consistency when winning gold at the 2009 Nationals, lived up to his reputation again to bring home silver with a worst placing of sixth across the twenty-two races. Graham came in on 50 points.

Paul Derwent grew his sizeable collection of bronze medals coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with the help of five wins. Paul sailed superbly all day Sunday but was let down by his Saturday afternoon results including two DNFs with gear problems.

Brendan Lee from the Waterways club in Melbourne placed fourth overall after a slow start. With four wins and two 2<sup>nd</sup> placings on Sunday, Brendan spent the day moving up the leader board and showed that on home turf for this year's nationals he will be very hard to beat.

For this event we included a seniors competition for the over 65s with prizes of bath towels beautifully embroidered by Jill Rowe. Rodney Popham deservedly picked up 1<sup>st</sup> place, getting continually better as the regatta progressed. Hot on Rodney's heels, Bob White came in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Noel McPherson 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Merv Somers, one of the founders of Dobroyd Aquatic Club in the 1940s, sailed with great skill and, like Steve Crewes, lost points by not being able to participate in all races.

Also notable was Allan Bicknell's performance in his first RC Laser event. Allan sailed extremely well, especially in the heavier weather and notched up a win, two seconds and three thirds to place 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

The event was managed superbly by Owen Jarvis and scored by the irrepressible Jill Rowe who regularly dispensed much needed words of encouragement to errant skippers.

The one constant about events at Rodd Point is the calm, helpful presence of Matt O'Donnell, our master of course setting and boat retrieval. On behalf of all participants, a very warm thankyou to our trio of officials.

Thank you also to Phillip Page, Doug Burnside, Ronald Notter and Carola Derwent for being on hand to help out and support the event in many ways. Thanks also to Paul Martin for organising Saturday night's feast and Greg Shore, DAC Commodore for presenting the trophies.

With ever-increasing numbers joining up to sail RC Lasers, we are looking forward to a busy calendar of events during 2010. I encourage all RC Laser skippers to sign up for the Nationals to be held at Waterways in Melbourne in April. It will undoubtedly be another great weekend and we already have registrations from NSW, South Australia and Western Australia to take the competition to the locals. SEE YOU THERE!

Cliff Bromiley

### Results Table

Place	Skipper	Sail #	State	Score	Masters Competition
1	Pat O'Brien	77	NSW	39	
2	Graham Brown	87	NSW	50	
3	Paul Derwent	21	NSW	86	
4	Brendan Lee	95	Vic	96	
5	Paul Martin	158	NSW	102	
6	Allan Bicknell	85	NSW	107	
7	Rodney Popham	42	WA	114	1st
8	Bob White	70	NSW	123	2nd
9	Cliff Bromiley	01	NSW	125	
10	Noel McPherson	65	NSW	152	3rd
11	Narelle Derwent	75	NSW	157	
12	Merv Somers	50	NSW	251	4th
13	Steve Crewes	90	NSW	264	5th