

Sailing competition at its best took place in Sydney over the weekend of January 28th and 29th. Despite some media-hyped promotion on the harbour between a couple of super egos, the real action was on Botany Bay. Here the Georges River Sailing Club was host to the NSW Laser Association's Masters and Womens Championships for 1989. About forty mature age gentlemen and much younger ladies competed in a four race series that was, as usual, characterised by intense competition, fair sailing and great sportsmanship - plus some exciting individual duels. Like that other affair, there was the occasional contact and minor gear failure, but no Laser had to be pulled off the rocks and the spectator fleet was never a problem.

Management of the series was provided by the younger members of the Laser Association committee, Michael Barrington, Mark Phillips and Tony Walsh. Despite some forebodings concerning their tender years, the unanimous opinion of all competitors at the end of the series was that they did a great job, and may, in due course, become worthy Masters themselves.

Although the number of competitors in the Womens section was less than in previous years (as was the Grand Masters), the quality was brilliant. Current World Womens Champion, Jacqui Ellis scoring a clean sweep, and in the process coming third overall in one heat. Kylie Murcutt, a very lightweight junior lady sailed consistently well throughout with frequent battles with father, Doug, a Master. The combined start did little for male chauvinism, and possibly domestic harmony.

Another clean sweep was scored by John Rigg, a former World champion in the Masters category. The much-travelled Michael Heath, made the trip from Melbourne and ended up in the money after a tentative first race. Patriarch of the Ellis clan, father Ralph (aka Chairman, NSW & ACT District Laser Association), didn't let the family down.

With equal points after the first day, Apprentices Phil Pegler and Warwick Phillips appeared an even money bet. However, Bob Dabbs rewrote the script by winning the third race. Sadly, his 720 at the start of the final race ended that run leaving the winner, Warwick, to take the series one point ahead of Phil with John Sprague third.

In the venerable Grand Masters, Arnold (Schwarzenegger) Abicht bolted away with two wins and Geoff (Rambo) Norris two seconds after two races. Geoff had to win both races on Sunday to have a chance. This he did, but only after a great final race in which he was four boats behind Arnold at the last mark. With equal points after discard, the result was a well deserved draw. Consistency, perserverance and experience gave Alan Clark third place. Many times world Grand Master Champion, Alan was also the oldest competitor. No Masters competition would be complete without Alan announcing his retirement from Laser sailing; we were not disappointed. See you next year, Alan.

Significantly, the black flag appeared only once, and there were no protests. Ladylike and gentlemanly remarks were heard at the rounding marks, and 720s observed scrupulously. Graeme MacLean learned the difference between port and starboard tack, requiring much duct tape as a consequence. He also discovered that time has its own importance, arriving at the start of the third race more than five minutes after the fleet had departed.

Enthusiasm for Masters competition was best demonstrated by Geoff Norris who arrived at Sydney airport from Hong Kong at 8.00 am on

Saturday and was taken directly to the regatta only to find that his Laser had not been delivered as arranged. Much relief when it finally turned up at 10.00 am ... for the 11.00 am start.

The facilities, support and environment at the Georges River Sailing Club seemed entirely appropriate for the relaxed but highly competitive style of Laser Masters. In the event, although the sun was not conspicuous, the weather was warm, the winds fair at 10 to 18 knots, and the race organisation was excellent. Top marks GRSC.



WARWICK PHILLIPS
- 1ST APPRENTICE -



GEOFF NORRIS
- EQ. 1ST GRAND MASTER -

RESULTS

APPRENTICE MASTERS

			HEAT 1	HEAT 2	HEAT 3	HEAT 4	POINTS
1	121096	W. PHILLIPS	2	1	3	1	3 1/2
2	131796	P. PEGLAR	1	2	2	2	4 3/4
3	123281	J. SPRAGUE	4	3	4	5	11
4	119013	B. DABBS	5	6	1	8	11 3/4
5	131803	P. HEYWOOD	3	5	6	4	12
6	123210	A. BENSON	10	4	7	6	17
7	114476	G. CLAUSEN	9	7	10	3	19
8	131813	M. JOHNSON	7	8	5	7	19
9	128651	C. MEECH	8	10	8	11	26
10	132478	S. SCHMIDT	11	9	9	9	27
11	121054	W. THOMPSON	RET.	14	11	10	35
12	131809	P. SMITH	12	12	12	12	36
13	128692	T. ALEXANDER	6	11	DNS	DNS	37
14	119037	D. BUCKWALTER	15	16	13	14	42
15	73004	C. CAIN	14	15	14	15	43
16	131781	P. FADDY	16	DNF	15	13	44
17	123363	K. BLOOR	13	13	DNS	DNS	46
18	103620	K. PLOWMAN	18	18	16	16	50

MASTERS

1	128557	J. RIGG	1	1	1	2	2¼
	114480	M. HEATH (VIC)	6	3	2	1	5¾
2	123250	R. ELLIS	4	7	3	5	12
3	135284	H. TAYLOR	3	6	4	6	13
4	119931	D. MURCUTT	2	4	8	9	14
5	101442	B. ROWNALL	7	5	10	4	16
6	119944	R. COLLYER	8	9	9	3	20
7	119012	D. MCGUIRE	11	8	6	7	21
8	121102	T. DENHAM	5	2	DNS	DNS	22
9	128536	R. JORDAN	9	10	5	8	22
10	132495	A. GRAY	10	DNS	7	10	27
11	121099	K. WALKER	12	13	11	11	33
12	128676	J. STARLING	13	11	12	13	36
13	119043	G. M'CLEAN	RET.	12	DNS	12	39

GRAND MASTERS

= 1	135277	G. NORRIS	2	2	1	1	3½
= 1	119011	A. ABICHT	1	1	3	2	3½
3	114527	A. CLARK	3	5	2	3	8
4	123271	G. GILBERT	4	3	4	4	11
5	131806	R. YOUNG	5	4	5	5	14

WOMENS

1	131792	J. ELLIS	1	1	1	1	2½
2	55711	K. MURCUTT	2	2	2	2	6
3	103620	K. FLOWMAN	3	3	3	3	9

PAUL
BADDILEY
5TH JUN.
(QLD.)



ANTHONY
WOODROW
3RD
JUNIOR

KENTON 4.10-26

NATIONALS '89