



Laser Association

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Good day Laser sailors,

Winter is upon us but the news, nevertheless is all good. Laser demand still exceeds production with no sign of either slowing. I understand from Father Superior at Performance Sailcraft that ten Lasers are on their way to Darwin bringing their total fleet to sixteen. This means that we are now fully represented in all States - eat your hearts out Tasman Tigers!

With close on a thousand boats sold in Australia, major events are attracting large fleets and it looks as if entries are going to have to be restricted in most cases to between 100 and 120. This will certainly be the case for the next Australian Championships so start planning your leave to allow you to sail in your State titles which will become the selection series.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS....OR THREE BAGS FULL AT HOLDFAST BAY.

Here is a reprint of the report written for Modern Boating for those of you who don't subscribe to it.

The first Australian Laser Championships were held at Holdfast Bay, South Australia, over Easter. Only four of the scheduled seven heats were sailed in conditions as severe as Adelaide could dish up.

Apart from the first heat, which was sailed in drifting conditions, strong winds plastered the fleet with up to thirty five knot winds and four foot waves. Even so, there was no doubt in the minds of all competitors that the winner, Peter Burford, sailing on his home course, deserved his success. He sailed to windward over the waves in amazing fashion - some claim that he has practised and raced there for so long that he knows each wave by name. Sailing downwind, his surfing technique really paid dividends too. As well as gaining an impressive trophy, Burford was awarded a trip to California for the Laser North American Championships.

The first heat saw lightweight former 12' skiff sailor Dave Morgan, from Sydney, set the pace. It wasn't Burford's weather, but he worked his way through the fleet to second. Third was Victorian Cors de Lange, fourth W. Whith from Victoria and fifth, Tony Barnes from NSW.

The second heat was a sign of things to come with 20 knot winds and a rising swell. Sydney heavyweight, Garry Linacre, lead around every mark but Peter burford's wave technique enabled him to take the lead twenty yards from the finish to win win by less than a boatlength. Third was former Fireball champion from South Australia, Ross Maldane, with Victorian State champion Andrew Foulkes fourth and Mark Phillips, NSW, fifth.

The third heat was cancelled with the fleet at the starting line when the wind increased to about forty knots. A lot of damage was done to masts and sails on the way in.

The fourth heat on Sunday morning saw twenty knot winds and three foot and a number of competitors staying in the safety of the club bar. The story is similar to the second heat with David Catterns from NSW leading around every mark and Burford again pipping him at the finish. In a savage tacking duel to the finish, Catterns became caught in irons, letting through Tom Hardy, Victoria, to second, and K. McColl, also from Victoria, to third and ending up fourth himself. Geoff Gale from NSW came home fifth. This shows the close tactical racing which is synonymous with Lasers.

The fifth heat again saw Burford start slowly only to take the lead on the final work. Although only ninth at the windward mark, his surfing technique put him fifth at the wing mark and third at the leeward mark, this time to take the lead from Geoff Gale second, John Hurst NSW third, and Tom Hardy fourth. Joe Cooper, another NSW heavyweight was unlucky in that being an early leader, he fell out of his boat as it fell down a wave.

Monday's sixth and seventh heats were both cancelled due to fifty knot winds and ugly sea.

Dropping his second place Burford finished the series with a clean sheet and the very consistent Geoff Gale with placings of 6, 5, 6, 2, finished second overall. Geoff was invited to attend the Port Lincoln Frostbite Regatta, expenses paid as a result.

Good luck to both Peter and Geoff for their regattas.

Here follow the full results:

1	P. Burford SA	2	1	1	1	0 points
2	G. Gale NSW	6	6	5	2	24.7
3	T. Hardy VIC	17	33	2	4	34
4	K. McColl VIC	41	11	3	6	34.4
5	R. Haldane SA	55	3	7	10	34.7
6	G. Linacre NSW	29	2	6	15	35.7
7	J. Hurst NSW	8	17	10	3	35.7
8	D. Catterns NSW	34	12	4	7	39
9	C. de Lange VIC	3	16	14	8	39.7
10	A. Foulkes VIC	9	4	13	11	40
11	J. Cooper NSW	DISQ	7	11	15	40
12	R. Mundle NSW	10	13	8	9	45
13	M. Phillips NSW	11	5	33	19	52
14	S. Deussen SA	37	15	9	18	60
15	C. Eastaugh TAS	13	22	17	17	65
16	I. Dixon SA	20	8	21	30	67
17	J. Back NSW	16	10	32	24	68
18	J. O'May TAS	31	19	15	DNS	73
19	C. Davidson VIC	54	24	12	20	74
20	B. Johnston NSW	14	36	22	23	77
21	P. Wilkinson VIC	52	19	28	13	78

22	T. Dorning VIC	19	27	18	25	80	points
23	G. Bachet VIC	12	18	49	33	81	
24	M. Edwards WA	25	DNF	27	12	82	
25	P. Yeomans NSW	24	14	26	27	82	
26	S. Hodgetts TAS	61	25	23	16	82	
27	J. Bagshaw VIC	15	28	31	22	83	
28	A. Butcher SA	36	21	19	28	86	
29	A. Barnes NSW	5	35	30	DNF	87	
30	I. Pitt VIC	26	33	36	21	88	
31	R. Deacon SA	30	26	16	31	90	
32	D. Morgan NSW	1	DSQ	37	43	92	
33	J. Pound VIC	23	29	25	26	92	
34	L. Williams WA	43	38	24	14	94	
35	W. Bovis NSW	27	39	20	36	101	
36	D. Gordon SA	7	45	44	35	104	
37	P. Brooks TAS	39	20	29	DNF	106	
38	S. Forbes NSW	21	32	46	44	115	
39	R. Moore SA	38	31	34	32	115	
40	H. Gibson VIC	22	46	DNF	37	123	
41	P. Elverd SA	53	41	41	29	129	
42	M. Solly VIC	DNF	40	39	34	131	
43	P. Smidmore NSW	33	42	51	39	132	
44	W. White VIC	4	50	DNF	DNF	134	
45	P. Sutherland NSW	32	51	35	DNF	136	
46	K. Bowmer NSW	28	61	53	45	144	
47	P. Maddern VIC	64	47	42	42	149	
48	I. Corben NSW	18	60	54	DNF	150	
49	D. Gibson NSW	59	43	43	DNF	153	
50	I. Dilliway SA	48	48	40	DNF	154	
51	F. Skinner VIC	50	44	45	DNF	157	
52	D. Postle SA	DNF	49	52	40	159	
53	D. Clayton SA	66	54	50	38	160	
54	H. Rogers NSW	DNF	53	50	38	160	
55	L. Nesbitt SA	44	59	56	46	164	
56	R. Roberts SA	35	DNF	38	DNF	165	
57	A. Burkitt WA	45	52	55	DNF	170	
58	W. Brownlee VIC	42	62	57	DNF	179	
59	J. Lamprey SA	62	56	DNF	DNF	185	
60	G. Weiss NSW	49	65	58	DNF	190	
61	R. Anderson NSW	56	34	DNF	DNF	192	
62	R. Glendenning SA	40	55	DNF	DNF	197	
63	B. Mitchell NSW	60	DNF	47	DNF	199	
64	J. Staples NSW	46	64	DNF	DNF	212	
65	T. Yelland NSW	47	63	DNF	DNF	212	
66	P. Willis SA	DNF	30	DNF	DNF	214	
67	R. Lindner SA	51	DNF	DNF	DNF	217	
68	R. Gledhill VIC	DNF	37	DNF	DNF	221	
69	D. Calnan VIC	63	58	DNF	DNF	223	
70	M. Collins SA	58	DNF	DNF	DNF	224	
71	D. Saies SA	DNF	66	DNF	DNF	230	
72	N. Bird SA	57	DNF	DNF	DNF	233	
73	G. Patterson NSW	65	68	DNF	DNF	235	
74	R. Wright SA	DNF	57	DNF	DNF	241	
75	B. Hawkes SA	DNF	DNF	DNF	DNF	248	
76	P. Sayers SA	DNF	67	DNF	DNF	251	

SOUTH PACIFIC LASER CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The highly successful inaugural South Pacific Laser Championships are only a week old and already plans are being made for next year's - more of that later however.

This was the first major regatta which was stretched out over a week and such it enabled one to see a bit of the surrounding country and test out the XXXX between races. The weather could not have been better from a sightseeing and beach holiday point of view but, alas, not so good for heavyweight sailors.

The first race on the Monday morning was sailed in a 0 to 5 knot breeze from the South East. Only one general recall was necessary to get the fleet away and, by the time they did, it had swung to the East and all but disappeared. Barry Thom, the New Zealand representative to the last World Championships, led the procession from the beginning and thus set the pattern for the rest of the regatta. Dave Morgan from NSW finished second and Murray Bocock from New Zealand, third.

The second heat, that afternoon, started in a 5 to 8 knot North Easter which stayed reasonably constant for the race except that on the first reach there was an extraordinary "hole" which bunched the whole fleet together and caused unbelievable chaos and the next two marks. A few of the leading boats missed the fun and disappeared into the middle distance. The course consisted of a triangle, windward and return, another triangle and a finish to windward. First, again, was Barry Thom with Dave Catterns from NSW second and Murray Bocock third.

Tuesday was the first lay day which saw a very important inter-dominion Pool championships being fought out at the Mooloolaba Rex Hotel. Playing under the very exacting Mooloolaba Rules, Australia took the series by two games to one.

The third race on Wednesday morning started in a good sailing breeze of about eight knots from the North West. Surprisingly there was no general recall which was very lucky for Rob Mundle who had just demonstrated the perfect start at the favoured end of the line. Geoff Gale took this race with Rob Mundle second, and Dave Catterns third.

That afternoon was the heavyweights dream, ten to twenty knots from the North West and steady. It did however swing to the East making the second round almost a procession - "almost" because some of the heavier of the heavyweights powered through on the final fetch to the finish. It's quite depressing having two fourteen stone guys sail past at the same time, one either side, I can assure you. Even the Committee boat, the Flying Saucer, had a battle to get to the finishing line first. NSW's import from Victoria, Garry Linacre, cleaned this race up with Barry Thom second and Murray Bocock third.

Thursday's lay day was set aside for the interdominion beach soccer match. Australia won this hard game by two goals to nil. Scorers for Australia were Rob Mundle and the "Weasle". New Zealand claimed one goal which, according to the home side, was disallowed under the Mooloolaba rules.

Friday morning's fifth heat was sailed in five knots from the South West most of the time. Positions at the first mark were Andrew Foulkes from

Victoria, Rob Mundle and Barry Thom. Final placings were first, Andrew Foulkes, second Barry Thom, and third Wally Stringer from New Zealand - Rob Mundle went looking for the doctor on the wrong side of the course and came home a disappointed fifth.

The sixth heat due to start at two that afternoon was postponed for over an hour and then started far out to sea when the breeze had died altogether. Towards the end of a rather frustrating first leg, an eight knot Northerly arrived which made the course a reach, work, reach, reach, at which point the committee wisely shortened course. Bryan Treleaven, a top Kiwi Finn sailor, led all the way to finish ahead of Pat Costello and Barry Thom.

Saturday's final heat started after a lengthy postponement and after an exciting inter-dominion backwards sailing competition had been held. Congratulations to Pat Costello went faster backwards than most of us could go forwards. The seventh heat was sailed in a dying breeze and over a course shortened to one triangle. Barry Thom scored his third win and came home ahead of Brad Johnston and Andrew Foulkes.

A great regatta - thanks very much to the Queensland District Association who organised it and to the Mooloolaba Yacht Club who ran it.

SOUTH PACIFIC LASER CHAMPIONSHIPS - MAY 1975

SKIPPER	STATE	SAIL NO.	1ST HEAT	2ND HEAT	3RD HEAT	4TH HEAT	5TH HEAT	6TH HEAT	7TH HEAT	POINTS	PLACE
Graham Smith	Qld	8967	24	25	DNS	29	28	DNS	28	179	32
Owen Holden	NSW	8994	23	20	29	24	26	18	20	131	26
David Morgan	NSW	9022	2	10	12	16	19	12	26	71	13
Ian Robson	Qld	9942	6	9	23	23	23	31	32	115	21
Richard Crook	Qld	10011	25	28	13	17	14	5	17	91	17
Mal Kampe	Qld	10100	9	DNF	8	4	9	14	6	50	6
Glynn Baumber	NZ	10514	38	33	24	27	29	9	31	153	29
Bill Thompson	NZ	10526	28	4	16	15	17	10	9	71	14
Barry Thom	NZ	10578	1	1	4	2	2	3	1	94	1
Don Stewart	Qld	11029	21	34	27	21	21	24	16	130	25
Garry Linacre	NSW	11403	30	30	10	1	27	17	DNF	114	20
Geoff Gale	NSW	12812	5	12	1	5	13	25	22	57	7
Andrew Foulkes	Vic	12818	7	7	11	18	1	8	3	36	4
John Wilkinson	Qld	12833	DNF	35	31	31	31	27	DNS	198	36
Norm Love	Qld	12871	34	19	22	32	DNS	DNS	DNS	197	35
Peter Long	NSW	12880	31	DNS	33	DNS	30	36	DNS	220	38
Lester Gunn	Qld	14106	39	32	35	34	36	21	25	183	34
Brad Johnston	NSW	14171	13	5	9	7	6	20	2	42	5
David Catters	NSW	14185	12	2	3	6	8	4	24	35	3
Flip Nutting	Qld	14194	11	24	34	33	35	DNS	27	164	31
Rob Mundle	NSW	14210	29	6	2	10	5	23	13	59	9
Tony Barnes	NSW	14222	4	15	18	19	7	7	10	61	11
Kirk Shearer	Qld	14223	DNF	39	37	DNS	39	35	DNF	230	40
crew: D. Blowers											
Gilles Bacht	Noumea	14228	19	36	26	30	24	26	29	154	30

Laurie Bowman	Qld	14236	27	26	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	233	41
Bob Schade	NZ	14933	26	17	20	20	25	30	19	127	24
Terry Longhurst	NSW	15028	33	37	36	DNF	38	37	34	215	37
Milton Pope	NZ	15909	35	13	15	9	10	19	11	77	15
Kev Haselgrove	NSW	16053	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	270	43
Geoff Pearson	NSW	16065	17	21	28	26	34	28	23	143	27
Steve Ryder	NZ	18001	22	31	32	DNS	32	15	15	147	28
Wally Stringer	NZ	18004	15	11	25	14	3	22	5	70	12
Murray Bocock	NZ	19823	3	3	5	3	11	6	12	31	2
Ian Treleaven	NZ	19846	14	14	14	13	12	13	14	80	16
Pat Costello	NZ	19882	16	23	7	12	15	2	8	60	10
Bryan Treleaven	NZ	19884	18	8	6	8	18	1	30	58½	8
John Hurst	NSW	23411	10	27	17	11	22	16	21	97	19
Peter Elverd	Vic	23412	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	270	43
Clive Poolman	Qld	23434	32	18	21	28	16	29	7	119	22
Donald Palmer	NSW	23441	8	16	30	DNS	33	32	4	123	23
Don Poole	Qld	24811	DSQ	DSQ	38	DNS	DNS	DNS	33	252	42
Bob Lee	NT	24840	37	38	39	DNF	37	33	DNS	221	39
Lawson Beatty	NT	24869	36	22	DNS	25	20	34	DNS	182	33
Mark Surridge	NZ	24926	20	29	19	22	4	11	18	94	18

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CHALLENGE TROPHY - MAY 1975

SKIPPER	SAIL NO.	1ST HEAT	2ND HEAT	3RD HEAT	4TH HEAT	5TH HEAT	6TH HEAT	7TH HEAT	POINTS
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Glynn Baumber	10514	-	16	18	18	20	8	14	94
Bill Thompson	10526	-	4	14	15	15	9	7	64
Barry Thom	10578	1	1	-	2	2	3	1	9½
Milton Pope	15909	-	12	13	9	10	16	9	69
Wally Stringer	18004	12	10	-	14	3	17	4	60
Pat Costello	19882	13	-	6	12	14	2	6	53
Bryan Treleaven	19884	14	8	5	8	16	1	-	51½
Murray Bocock	19823	3	3	4	3	11	5	-	29
Ian Treleaven	19846	11	13	12	13	12	12	-	73
Mark Surridge	24926	15	-	17	17	4	10	11	74

New Zealand - Total points 577

David Morgan	9022	2	9	11	16	17	11	-	66
Mal Kampe	10100	7	-	7	4	9	13	5	45
Garry Linacre	11403	16	15	9	1	19	15	-	74½
Geoff Gale	12812	5	11	1	5	13	-	13	47½
Andrew Foulkes	12818	6	7	10	-	1	7	3	33½
Brad Johnston	14171	10	5	8	7	6	-	2	38
David Catters	14185	9	2	3	6	8	4	-	32
Rob Mundle	14210	-	6	2	10	5	18	10	51
Tony Barnes	14222	4	14	16	-	7	6	8	55
John Hurst	23411	8	-	15	11	18	14	12	78

Australia - Total points 521½

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND POOLE CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1975.

Australia: 2
New Zealand: 1

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BEACH FOOTBALL - 1975.

Australia: 3
New Zealand: 0

BACKWARDS SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1975.

Pat Costello NZ 19882

1975/6 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.

We have had word from Victoria that the next Australian championships will be held over Easter 1976 on Port Phillip Bay at the Black Rock Yacht Club, Black Rock. The dates are the 16th to 20th April, both days inclusive. This is to be the BIG regatta of the year because it will probably be the selection series for the 1976 world championships to be held in Europe. Once again it seems as if Australia will only be able to send two competitors so start getting fit now.

SOUTH PACIFIC LASER CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1976.

New Zealand will be hosting the next of these regattas - the venue will probably be Auckland and the time sometime just before or after the Aust. championships. Don't forget to pack your skis - we could quite easily organise an excursion down to the snow (if there is any) on the way home.

THE LASER "M".

This is an extract from the New Zealand "Laser Association News" which I hope is not copyright in any way:

"The CPOC (Class Policy and Organisation Committee) of the IYRU met in mid-April in Sydney and approved the formation of the new class within the Laser class, name unspecified. The distinguishing mark of the new class is a large capital "M" on the sail alongside the Laser symbol, so for the time being the class is being called the Laser M. New Zealand and Australia do not make big things of junior training programs for younger sailors at the club level but throughout the rest of the world this is a really big deal. In Norway they have a very well developed program of this nature and in order to accommodate the younger group, teens and women especially, they developed a smaller rig for the Lasers, of which they have plenty in the fiords.

"Some Laser sailors naturally got upset at a semi official group creating a variation within the strict one-design Laser concept so, before the whole thing got too well developed, the matter was taken to the IYRU. To nobody's surprise, the IYRU greeted the idea with enthusiasm, and the Sydney meeting formalised the concept.

"The concept was to use the existing Laser, the same boom, the same lower section, and develop a smaller sail using a top section of the same length as the present boom (keeping building costs down), but reducing the height of the centre of effort of the sail to make it easier for a lighter person to hold the boat upright. By trial and error, and with careful adjustment, the

sail area decided upon was 70% of the usual sail, but the reduction in the foot length was marginal, while the hoist is substantially smaller. To accomodate the stiffer section the sail is cut differently, the net result is a sail that produces only 60% of the heeling moment that the big one does. I'm told that stacking is a breeze, in a breeze, but the upwind speed is about the same - the most discernable loss being flat off.

"The CPOC indicated that they wanted the new class to be a group within the main Laser association but left it, for the time being, to the discretion of the local racing organisers to define the parameters under which the class would race - with the big boats, in separate fleets, or switching rig with the breeze. No decision has been made locally, mainly because there is only one Laser M sail in New Zealand right now and it would be wise to wait until some are performing locally here before making a clear choice.

"One of the best benefits of the class is of course that a father can have both rigs, one for himself and one the kids can handle, enjoying the speed and handling characteristics of the boat without being overpowered in the gusts. Not quite two boats for the price of one, but almost.

"Well thats big news, is it exciting? You bet! I've got four kids!"

MEET THE WESTERNERS.

Hi,

Jeni King from Mounts Bay Sailing Club in Western Australia, where on a very boozy evening after a beautiful hot summers afternoon sail I was unanimously elected by our Laser crewe to the post of W.A. correspondent to the Laser Association now red on!

Both my husband and best friend aquired Lasers at the beginning of last November, and since then our life seems to have been governed by these beautiful girls, along with those of the considerable and growing number of enthusiasts from our fair shores. It is incredible how our fleet numbers have grown, and the devotion which each and every owner seems to show his or her craft.

Our club races are on Sunday afternoons (or were during summer - we have now started winter racing on the same day), with the odd fixture on Saturday afternoon in special cicumstances. South of Perth Yacht Club, the only other metropolitan yacht club with a fleet during summer (Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club have a growing number of Lasers and by next summer will probably be holding club races)raced on Saturday afternoons, with a standing invitation to any Laser from other clubs to participate, as we at Mounts Bay also extend.

Our club introduced a fortnightly series of twilight races for all classes together this year, to take advantage of the daylight saving which we briefly had the fortune to experience before it was brutally murdered by the referendum held in March, much to the disgust of a large number of Laser sailors who felt that our twilight sails were the highlight of the season. We had several really hairy nights which I can write about at first hand, as most of the men decided to sail two up and their second best ladies got a go! However, the faster the breeze the more exciting the sail for us, and with our wetsuits donned the occasional dip in the drink only added to the final pleasures of the warming experience of the subsequent barbeque on the shore and the countless flagons of wine and jugs of beer. (Ed: sounds like they are not much differant from us after all!) I'm sure the quantites of liquid other than briney consumed did nothing for the condition of the serious sailors, but all seem to have survived nonetheless.

We had two sorties into the country at the beginning of the year, when Ron Marshall of the Great Southern Inland Sailing Club arranged for us to go down to an absolutely beautiful spot about 150 miles from Perth, near the country town of Wagin. There is a growing Laser fleet there, where they also sail Moths and cats with much vim and vigour. The first time we went down at the beginning of January, about 8 boats made the trek from Perth just for the day, which proved to be quite a long one, though very enjoyable, but we decided that it was so successful, and that it was such a pity to have to leave after only one chance to race, that we would go again for a weekend at a later date, which was arranged for the Labour Day weekend in the first week of March. It was an incredible success, with seventeen boats sailing in three heats, one on Sunday morning, one on Sunday afternoon, and one on Monday morning. The Association, on the proposal of our Laser dealer and intrepid sailor Ross Whittome, and the efforts of fellow sailor David Cruse (who has just returned from a trip to the U.S. where he went to the Performance Sailcraft factory in San Rafael and met Don Trask, who showed great hospitality and interest in his Australian visitor, and who laughingly recounted the story of the Sydney Laserophile who flew into San Francisco airport, got a cab post haste to the factory, bought a Laser T-shirt, got a cab back to the airport, and flew home to Sydney!) organised the Lake Norring Perpetual Trophy, which is a superb Jarrah shield bearing the Laser emblem, and now the first engraved name of John Gaunt, who romped in first.

Our State Championships were held at Mounts Bay over three weekends just before Easter, resulting in a win for John Gaunt, with Graeme Lillingston and Ian Miller filling second and third places.

Our representative at Holdfast Bay was Les Williams, who came second in our National Selection Heats. John Gaunt, (yes, again!) was unable to make the trip to South Australia following his first placing, but Arthur Birkett and young Mark Edwards both went along as support for Les and came back overflowing with their experiences. Les gave a very interesting talk at the MBYC following his return, where he described the incredibly hairy conditions encountered at Holdfast Bay, and informed our sailors of the many helpful hints he had picked up in observing the habits of the foreigners from the Eastern shores.

Our first three winter races have been very well attended, despite the rain and cold on two of the Sundays, and everyone seems keen to sail on through the season, so I will keep you informed of their doings.

Till the next saga,

Jeni.