

National Racing Round Up

VICTORIAN IOM STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS by Eddy Kennedy

With gale force winds, hail and lots of showers forecast, only 14 of the original 18 actually turned up to sail. However with most of the top performers from the recent Nationals on the water it was going to be a closely contested event. With strong winds blowing PRO Rod Clack quickly set a full course and was kept busy early moving the course around. Young Clayton White made them all sit up by winning the first race, but Craig Smith then won four of the next five races, moving to a 10 point break. After that Craig found it difficult to string consecutive victories together, as Jeff Byerley settled down and started to put some wins on the board, closing the gap. The strong winds were keeping the fleet bunched up and while Craig and Jeff seemed to be the ones to beat, they were under extreme pressure from Lincoln

McDowall, Saturday finished with only two points separating Craig and Jeff (without drops).

There were no showers early Sunday but very strong cold winds. The battle continued between Craig and Jeff, but Lincoln had a good patch winning 3 out of six races to close within 11 points of Jeff. Jeff seemed to have a different mind set on Sunday and he continued to close the gap to Craig by winning four out of five in the middle of the day and at lunch (with the drops at that stage) was level with Craig. Even though Craig only won two races in the final session, Jeff was unable to take advantage, allowing Craig to move to a eight point break at the finish. The best bit of sportsmanship displayed for the weekend was by Ralph White who sacrificed his own race to assist his son Clayton who had gear trouble.

The PRO's prize went to Eddie Laing for a battling performance and causing Rod the least agro for the weekend.

VICTORIAN 2004 IOM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

| Place | Skipper | Design | Sails | Winch | Points |
|-------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1 | Craig Smith | TS2 | C Smith | RMG 280D | 56 |
| 2 | Jeff Byerley | Xtreme | Mirage | RMG | 64 |
| 3 | L.McDowall | Splice | McDowall | RMG | 86 |
| 4 | Ralph White | Ikon | BG Sails | RMG | 134 |
| 5 | Clayton White | Halico | BG /Smith | RMG | 141.5 |
| 6 | Rob O'Brien | TS2 | C Smith | RMG | 169.3 |
| 7 | J Bennett | TS2 Clone | C Smith | RMG | 193 |
| 8 | Andrew Reid | TS2 | C Smith | RMG | 228 |
| 9 | Ted Laing | TS2 | C Smith | RMG | 230 |
| 10 | Rob Guyatt | Disco | BG Sails | RMG | 244 |
| 11 | David Jones | Cockatoo | C Smith | RMG | 245 |
| 12 | Philip Howard | TS2 | C Smith | RMG | 339 |
| 13 | Richard Bartle | TS2 Clone | C Smith | RMG | 343 |
| 14 | Ian Whitrod | TS2 | C Smith | RMG | 381 |