

National Racing Round Up

VICTORIAN M CHAMPIONSHIPS Day Two.

2004 - Lake Carribean by Eddy Kennedy

Day One.

With the wind varying between almost zero to a nice 10-12 knots all the day, all the boats had a chance to show which conditions favoured their design and skippers. With Lincoln McDowall having family commitments, Ralph White was commissioned to sail his boat and had a five minute lesson on the bank (having never sailed this or any other Marblehead before).

Whilst everybody thought Bill Hutchison would be the man to beat, it turned out to be much more competitive. After 8 races Bill had won four, but Steve Arthur, Andrew Reid and Ron Parker had already shown good form and Ralph White after finding out that some manoeuvres don't work as well on Marblehead's as they do on one metre's, was improving every race. Geoff Dawson (the quiet one) was also doing well. Unfortunately Geoff could not make it the next day. Chris Ryan was sailing another new boat (with only limited time in the water prior to this event) and was having intermittent electric problems.

At the end of the day Bill Hutchison was leading but could not string together any more than two wins at any one time. Ralph White was now looming as Bill's main threat.

With similar conditions to day one (an early heat saw half the fleet timed out); Ralph White was 11 points behind Bill and looked as if he could close the gap.

Steve Arthur though was sailing well and was getting in some close seconds to Bill. Andrew Reid was getting more consistent and scored four firsts over the event. At times Ralph got to within five points but then Bill would pull away again with his consistent performances. As usual Rob O'Brien preformed well with his lovingly restored very dated boat and left many newer hi-tec boats in his wake. Tony White seemed to be still coming to terms with his boat and should improve. Mike Penders boat went well when the breeze picked up, but did not like the quiet times. Andrew Sands spent most of the time at the back of the fleet, but he gets my prize for grim determination and good preparation for the event, as he sailed in, and completed every race. Well done Andrew. Chris Ryan retired early, still having some problems with his boat.

With only a few races to go and Ralph challenging, Bill put in a couple of strong wins to make the result safe.

PRO was Rod Clack. With assistance from Eddy Kennedy, Margaret Lee, Jeremy Boal, David White



RESULTS

| Place | Skipper | Points |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| 1 | Bill Hutchison | 61 |
| 2 | Ralph White | 81 |
| 3 | Steve Arthur | 105 |
| 4 | Andrew Reid | 121 |
| 5 | Paul Cohen | 123 |
| 6 | Rob O'Brien | 219 |
| 7 | Ron Parker | 233 |
| 8 | Mike Pender | 256 |
| 9 | Tony White | 312 |
| 10 | Chris Ryan | 324 |
| 11 | Geoff Dawson | 330 |
| 12 | Andrew Sands | 351 |

Most of the competitors after the spoils were awarded. E Kennedy pic