



MANLY JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011-2012;

ROUND TWO - Avalon

The second round of the Manly Junior NSW State Championships was hosted by Avalon Sailing Club, nestled amidst the bush lined banks of Pittwater on Sydney's northern beaches. Another three boats registered taking the fleet up to 44 boats with the novice fleet standing at a very healthy and competitive 18 boats.

The first morning proved to be monsoon like as parents and sailors rigged the fleet in awful conditions; the first race was inevitably delayed giving most people the opportunity to dry out and have lunch; the two scheduled races would be run back to back. Eventually at just after 1pm the impressive fleet left ASC's new deck area and headed across to the north of Scotland Island in bright sunshine. Unfortunately the first race lasted just over 15 minutes as the wind shifted and the boats were sent back to the start. Ten minutes later the fleet was away in a strengthening north east wind with most boats favoring the left side on the port course. The first triangle was highly competitive with a number of the leading championship boats struggling as the fleet raised their spinnakers for the first time. As the race developed one boat 2772 (*MWD*) crewed by Daniel Heyworth and Jesse Dransfield established a strong lead which they held from the top mark on the first triangle and they won the race by a margin of nearly two minutes heading their fellow Manly club mates, Chris Holmes and Angus Metcalfe in 2769 (*Another Dark and Stormy*). Four boats were a further minute behind in a tight battle for third place eventually taken by Nathan and Jesse Lilley in 2777 (*Black Jack*).

The race for scratch honors in the novice fleet saw an exciting finish with the first two boats separated by just 2 seconds. Eventually 2746 (*Full Throttle*) crewed by Alistair Read and Philip Walters edged out Zac and Jake Barnabas in 2733 (*Skedaddle*) with Tom Schulenburg and Elliot Porter in *Crazy N Wild* in 3rd a further 50 seconds back.

So back to the start boat for Race 2 and within seconds of the start three boats were recalled, including 2772 (*MWD*) winner of the first race. Two boats flew to the first mark with a handsome lead over the fleet, 2771 (*Too Hot To Hoot*) and 2775 (*Blake Out*) but as the wind started to fade and become more flukey drama unfurled with two boats holed in an increasingly close (and bumpy) race. Through it all Daniel Heyworth in *MWD* made a great recovery and the winner of the first race overcame his start line transgression to win by two minutes from 2721 (*Bad Fish*) sailed by Harley and Logan Walters closely followed by Twomey and Flynn Jackson in 2766 (*Tinny*). In the novice race the Barnabas boat *Skedaddle* returned to their round one form winning by well over a minute followed by *Speed Demon* and *Crazy N Wild*.



Day two and sailors were met with a strong south west wind, forecast to blow as much 25 knots. Unfortunately, conditions were too tough for the novices and their race was abandoned for safety reasons before the green flag. At just after 1pm the main fleet headed north towards Careel Bay to seek out slightly calmer sheltered conditions. However, before the start one boat suffered a mast failure and two other boats failed to make the start. When the race started it was dominated by 2769 (*Another Dark and Stormy*) expertly steered in conditions which improved from gusty to a flukey breeze by the end of the race; the boys won by nearly two minutes. The rest of the fleet was spread out by the changing and variable wind and the Twomey brothers in *Tinny* came home a comfortable second, only partially hampered by a bent mast, followed by *Blake Out* crewed by Blake Doyle and Hugh Triglone.

So after two rounds, the race for the State MJ Championship couldn't be closer with three boats, *Tinny*, *Another Dark and Stormy* and *MWD* covered by just four points after six races; all three crews know that several other boats are capable of making it hard for the leaders. The state finale at Point Wolstencroft in February promises to be an exciting and competitive weekend. See you there....!

02 December 2011.