

Burnsco Phase 2 National Championships

Tamaki Yacht Club, 19-20 January 2008

The usual suspects with some welcome first timers and an ominous forecast met the home of Auckland Phase 2s, Tamaki Yacht Club, on a promising Saturday morning for the 2008 Burnsco Phase 2 National Championships.

Race one got underway on a course set outside the reef, off Kohimarama Beach. Two windward-leewards with a beat to the finish. Some crews took some time to come to grips with the first real breeze for a few weeks. A few utilised the modified sail controls to good effect, while others wished they had got around to installing them on their boats. Upwind, the boats at the front of the fleet flattened off their *mains*, hiked hard and kept their jibs drawing, a recipe that served them well all weekend. Downwind, fortune favoured the brave. Hold on, leave most of the board down, catch the good waves and try and remember where you last saw the next mark. Stephen Rolls and Peer Jensen from Rotorua in *Bob* took out this race closely followed by Peter and Bruce Davidson in *Duet*.

Race two was the one the punters came to watch with the first of the reaching legs. Ian Paterson sailing in his first Phase 2 event was fully briefed of his role of keeping the torrents out of the helmsman's eye's. Gybing on the wing caused more than its fair share of wipeouts, some choosing to tack around instead and remain dry(er). Those at the front of the fleet managed to extend their lead on these legs, with confident boat handling on the reaching and downwind legs. Well, that's what it looked like.

Race three took a heavy toll on the fleet, decimating it to only 9 finishers. The tide was in full flow and the race committee set a new course set inside Bean Rock and Bastion Point. Two windward leewards. Sadly it also was the end of the regatta for Andrew Pitcher and Sean Morgan who through a series of unfortunate events beginning with a popped out inspection port ended up with a broken mast. Please email Andrew directly for the full account especially if you have a spare mast lying about.

The breeze steadily built throughout the morning, to a steady 20 knots and only 7 boats began the epic race four. T3; Triangle, windward leeward, triangle with, by then, an excruciating final beat to windward. Peter and Bruce Davidson again showed their class to win this race with Murray and Andrew Davidson getting their best result and completing the Davidson double.

Those that persevered were welcomed back with admiration by those already on the ramp to wrap up the first day. The boats were tied down for the night and after the AGM the day was recounted at the barbeque. With the forecast predicting even more wind the next day crews went home for a warm bath, a good sleep and deep tissue physio.

By the time we were on the water for the fifth race the wind simply picked up from where it left off the previous day. After good positioning on the line Geoff and Johnny Bates in *The Knot* had an unfortunate capsize just over the start line then recovered well steadily picking off positions. The 10 boats that set off punched their way through the chop to the top mark, followed by a couple of very memorable reaches. The first three boats managed to put a gap between them and the rest of the fleet despite a couple of swims from Ben Howson and Ian Paterson from *Saline Solution* who managed their best result, a third. These were the most physically demanding conditions at a Nationals for a few years.

After some thought the racing was called off at that point, with sufficient races completed to have a series with no discards. By this point the fleet suffered a broken mast, boom and rudder and a couple of torn sails most of which had already received their 20+ year service medal. Everyone was happy to feel the concrete beneath their feet again.

Finishing consistently in the top two positions was enough to see Peter and Bruce onboard *Duet* take the title for 2008 with Stephen and Peer coming second showing that salt water is no obstacle for them. Local knowledge and skilful sailing in the taxing conditions saw the Masters Trophy won by Murray Davidson with Andrew Davidson as crew in *Sixth Sense*.

This year the handicap Trophy was award to Graham Burrell and Elizabeth Hookings, in *Four Two Six*. They finished strongly as the conditions worsened to finish with a 14, 11, 8, 5, 8. Wade Tresadern and Sam McKay from Napier in the legendary *Captain Hook* won the Youth cup holding out Christian Jensen and Chelsea Fielder from Rotorua.

As usual, the dedicated Tamaki race committee ran a very efficient regatta in uncomfortable conditions. We all appreciate the time and effort they put into the regatta.

Following the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta, The Auckland Champs is the next event on the calendar in April. Details will be found at www.phase2.org.nz.

If you are looking at a two person one design boat to get into, Bonito Boats, the manufacturers of the Phase 2, have a demo boat that may be borrowed. Contact Scott Wrigley at Bonitos regarding this on 09 412 8948.

Ben Howson

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Place	Helm	Crew	Boat
1	Peter Davidson	Bruce Davidson	<i>Duet</i>
2	Stephen Rolls	Peer Jensen	<i>Bob</i>
3	Geoff Bates	Jonathan Bates	<i>The Knot</i>
4	Murray Davidson	Andrew Davidson	<i>Sixth Sense</i>

Handicap Trophy	Graham Burrell	Elizabeth Hookings	<i>Four Two Six</i>
Youth Cup	Wade Tresadern	Sam McKay	<i>Captain Hook</i>
Masters Cup	Murray Davidson	Andrew Davidson	<i>Sixth Sense</i>