

SOUTH PACIFIC LASER MASTERS 2023



Sunday Day 3

The Queensland Laser Association's South Pacific Laser Masters rolled into seaside Brisbane once again, bringing visiting sailors from NZ, Vic, NSW and Samoa to our glorious Moreton Bay. Crisp sunny winter skies welcomed the fifty seven sailors to the green grounds of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron for this annual four day regatta. Regatta sponsors **NB Sailsports** continued their generous support and all competitors were in with a chance to win some of the over \$1500 worth of ICA gear including a new sail and other ILCA gear.

Conditions were typical for a winter regatta - Day 1 Friday opened with a bang as a fresh westerly gusting to 27 knots provided exhilarating rides downwind and significant damage to numerous boats and a number of skippers.

Lighter and more challenging conditions followed on Saturday while Sunday provided near-perfect sailing conditions with a variable 10 to 15 knot westerly. Monday dawned with clear blue skies and a light westerly that faded to a picturesque glass out. However everyone was glad to soak up the Queensland winter sunshine as they were towed home to pack up and enjoy George Meikle's world renowned sausage sandwiches at the Presentation. George was also the winner of the ILCA 4 division beating out new comer Kate Slade from Humpybong.



Presentation



ILCA 6 (Radial)

Michael Pitt

The Radial fleet of 37 boats was of very high quality with three world masters champions competing. Nevertheless it was dominated by RQYS Apprentice Ben Franklin who had a clean scorecard apart from a start line indiscretion costing him maximum points.

It was a very close battle behind Ben for the next three places. In the end it was ex world champion Jeff Loosemore from Sydney (1st GGM) in second overall and only one point ahead of BSS coach Dan Blight (1st M) who was closely followed by Sunshine Coast entrant Mark Kennedy (1st GM).

Lyndall Patterson who was a Brisbane local for many years but now represents RPAYC and who was GGM runner-up in the recent Thai world Master championships battled with RQ sailor Michael Pitt (GGM) for 5th and 6th place with Michael narrowly prevailing.

The first Legend was local legend Kerry Waraker who also incredibly finished 10th in the combined fleet. Truly impressive! Kerry instigated the SPLM regatta many years ago as a warm up regatta for the Masters Worlds when held in the northern hemisphere.

Racing in the Radials was close throughout the fleet with places 7 to 10 separated by only three points and similar close results through out the fleet.

The strong winds on Friday not only provided white knuckle rides downwind but the unusual sight of Hugh Bekkers and Peter Fell both utilizing what looked like a reef in their sails as they were lowered down the mast while racing. The measurers are having a close look at these boats and will report back. Meanwhile Steve Baum discovered why radial aluminium bottom sections cost one quarter of a carbon mast.

ILCA 7 (Standard rig)

Andrew Stransky



Andrew Stransky in Fridays westerly

Day 1 goes off with a bang as a powerful westerly starts off the racing, testing everyone to the limit, forcing some gear damage and general retirements in our 18 boat fleet. Race one provides the biggest breeze of the regatta with QLA president M Wilson leading the fleet home by dint of being the only one not to capsize. Matt Faddy from NSW VYC rocks up to the sunset snacks as series leader and everyone has had a solid workout on choppy Waterloo Bay.

Day 2 and the westerly has lost most of its ferocity, providing excellent racing in moderate to fresh shifty westerlies. Local GM Andrew Stransky shares the top honours with M Wilson, keeping the southerner M Faddy at bay.

Day 3 delivers more great racing in the shifty westerly flow. In race 5 Andrew Verrall from Humpybong produces a great performance to take the win. Our NZ challenger Nick Page finds some form to come home 3rd behind the consistent Stransky. Race 6 sees talented Sydney sailor Matt Faddy find the rhythm of the Waterloo Bay chop to take the win with RQYS defending champ Andrew Stransky in 2nd holding onto the lead by a point. Andrew Ringwood from Humpybong continues his strong form taking 3rd. The famous SPLM dinner that night proves a splendid affair, full of good cheer, banter and the finest bon homie between our like minded fellow sailors.

With the Day 4 glass out meaning no results on the Monday it meant that local RQYS GM Andrew Stransky claimed a narrow win over highly ranked Master Matt Faddy, followed by our QLA president who claimed 3rd and 1st GGM, even though his organising duties distracted him towards the end. Andrew Ringwood in 4th scored 2nd GM fending off southerner Chris Rodowicz VYC and Rod Smith from BSS. Brian Ferguson from Georges River was 7th overall and 2nd Master, beating our illustrious Kiwi friend Nick Page on countback, while Nick scored 2nd GGM. Andrew Verrall with his bullet, came 9th and 1st Apprentice.



Matt Faddy sending it

Many thanks to Race Officer Alan Crawford and his team of volunteers and to the RQYS staff who did a marvellous job in holding a great regatta.

Full results [here](#)

