

Australian Raceboard Nationals – Saratoga Sailing Club 2020-21

The rescheduled Australian Raceboard National Titles at Saratoga Sailing Club in NSW attracted 29 entrants.

Initially the event had been scheduled for January, but COVID border closures at the time meant it wasn't possible for interstate participants to travel. By the time the rescheduled dates of April 16-18 came about, all borders were open. And although autumn is upon us, temperatures remained in the low to mid 20s all week.



Day 1 got underway in a 8 - 18 knot southerly, with Nathan Clift taking out the first race, with Richie Reynolds winning Race 2 in a record fast time following a massive left swing during the final countdown.

After a lunch break, racers started heading back onto the course. Unfortunately, after a good first session, Nathan Clift took himself out, slipping while launching and fracturing his ankle and shin bone. He had made a very late decision to join the regatta as his partner was due to give birth on the day after the event. Andrea since brought Laine Viper Clift into the world at 3.87kg and 51 cm, while Nathan hopped about on crutches. We wish them all the very best.



Meanwhile, back at the regatta, Race 3 and 4 were in a 7-12 knot south-easter. Richie won the two afternoon races, with Keith Single racking up two seconds.

We had a big contingent of Sprint fleet competitors, with many doing their first regatta at Saratoga. Francois Horion and Denis Kolmerschlag had some spirited competition, with Denis winning Race 1, but Francois having the upper hand from then on.



Day 2 saw light breezes slowly disappearing, so the group amused itself with Stand Up Paddleboard relays in the sunshine and waiting for the postponement to end. Alas, by 2.30pm there was no sign of any wind, so racing was abandoned.

A light westerly in the morning of Day 3 quickly died, leading to another brief postponement. The new light south-easterly allowed 3 non-planing races, just! The wind pretty much disappeared in the last race. Local John Doolan won Races 5 and 7, with Richie Reynolds taking out Race 6 after a strong start by Steve Newman.



In the Sprint fleet, Francois continued his success until the final race, which was won by Gary Redman.

A really pleasing sign was the number of women in the regatta, with a total of 6 entering the regatta. Lissa McMillan won the women's trophy, achieving a 4th in the Open fleet's final race, and taking out 2nd Lightweight overall.

The event saw a shift in demographics, with more Seniors and Masters than we've seen for some time, thanks to the influx of new sailors.

Many thanks to Saratoga Sailing Club for hosting the rescheduled event. A great club atmosphere welcomed our fleet, we had many first time entrants who really had a great time and are keen to join in future regattas.



Congratulations to all the podium winners:

Men 1st Richie Reynolds, 2nd John Doolan , 3rd Adam Hampton.

Women 1st Lissa McMillan, 2nd Linh Tran, 3rd Abby Placido.

Lightweight 1st Martin Thearle, 2nd Lissa McMillan, 3rd Allan Jamal.

Medium weight 1st Richie Reynolds, 2nd Adam Hampton, 3rd Greg MacInnes.

Heavyweight 1st John Doolan, 2nd Tom Plodr, 3rd Keith Single.

Sprint 1st Francois Horion, 2nd Denis Kolmerschlag, 3rd Gary Redman.

7.8m 1st James Dawson, 2nd David Vernon, 3rd Rob Jones.

Senior 1st Adam Hampton, 2nd Denis Kolmerschlag, 3rd James Dawson.

Master 1st Nathan Clift, 2nd Francois Horion, 3rd David Vernon.

Grandmaster 1st Richie Reynolds, 2nd John Doolan, 3rd Greg MacInnes.

Veteran 1st Tom Plodr, 2nd Keith Single, 3rd Martin Thearle.