

RACE REPORTS – by Alan “Spanner” Spencer

Competitors

Boat	Skipper	Crew	State
937 Gobstopper	Silvio Fico	Mick Minutillo	WA
954 Grey Ghost	Keith Sinton	Chris Sinton	NSW
969 Natural Juices II	Ken Davies	Lachlan Schroder	NSW
972 What Now	Greg Paterson	Yianni Foufas	NSW
973 On The Road Again	Steve Hudson	Bodhi De Freitas	WA
977 Take It Easy	Michael Winney	Emma Edwards	NSW
978 Megasaurarse	Paul Shiner	Matthew Ferris	WA
980 Double Decker Dog	Ray Simpson	Trevor Green	NSW
981 Any Which Way	Dave Luck	Glenn Crichton	NSW

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Series Summary

Steve Hudson and grandson Bodhi De Freitas of WA on 973 - On the Road Again - took out the 63rd Skate National Championship, making it back-to-back Championship wins for them and the third year in a row that a Western Australian skate has won the Championship.

There was close racing amongst past Skate National Champions for the top three positions with David Luck and Glenn Crichton of NSW on 981 - Any Which Way finishing second and Greg Patterson and Yianni Foufas of NSW on 972 - What Now taking third place.

Handicap champions were Ray Simpson and Trevor Green of NSW on 980 - Double Decker Dog and the Veterans Trophy was won by Silvio Fico and Mick Minutillo of WA on 937 - Gobstopper.

Alan (Spanner) Spencer's race reports are included on the following pages of this document and full race results for every heat and the series overall can be found on the Competition page of Skate Sailing Association website.

You'll also find the photos taken by Marnie Davies on the Skate Sailing Facebook page.

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Heat 1

With a small fleet of 9 boats in 12-15 knot breeze, the first race commenced after a short postponement due to shifting breeze.

Steve and Bodhi on On the Road Again were 1st around the top mark, but the tight shy saw him passed by Lucky on Any Which Way after it became a two sail reach.

Mick Winney on Take it Easy continued in 3rd place, the middle of the fleet changed positions frequently throughout the race. Greg Patterson on What Now recovered well after an early swim on the first work. Ray Simpson christened the new boat Double Decker Dog with a swim at the top mark on the 2nd lap.

Two retirements from the race today, Keith and Chris on Grey Ghost with a broken 10ft plank and Silvio and Mick on Gobstopper with some suspect knot tying skills causing their kite to go for a swim.

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Heat 2

Heat 2 started in a southerly of around 12 knots gusting to 16 knots, a windward return course was set.

A tight tussle between 973 - On the Road Again, 981 - Any Which Way and 972 - What Now ensued for the whole 3 laps with it coming down to the final windward leg to the finish.

Matt on Megasaurarse took a dive off the 10 footer on the first downwind leg but managed to hold on and scramble back on.

Pato showed amazing speed until needing to turn the corners!

Final Placings:

1st Steve & Bodhi - On the Road Again

2nd Dave & Glenn - Any Which Way

3rd Greg and Yianni - What Now

All boats finished the course within 14 minutes from 1st to 9th place.

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Heat 3

What a Race!

15 knot southerly, windward return course again. Once again the same boats 972 - What Now, 973 - On the Road again and 981 - Any Which Way were at the front of the pack for the first work.

On the first kite run the action really started with a collision between 973 - On the Road Again and 972 - What Now in a port/starboard incident which has now been finalised in a Protest.

973 - On the Road again ended up with a broken rudder and managed to float their way to shore to retire. 972 were able to continue in the race.

981 - Any Which Way was then left in the front with 937 - Gobstopper on his tail followed by 969 - Natural Juices and not far behind was 978 - Megasaurarse in 4th place.

Brain fade set in on the 3rd work with the crew of 981 - Any Which Way going through the finish line 1 lap early as they didn't count their laps. 937 - Gobstopper also got confused and followed them through the line a lap early. This means both boats are DSQ as it was stipulated not to cross the start/finish line at any time during the race unless you were starting/finishing.

This then opened up the playing field, on the 3rd windward leg, 969 - Natural Juices was in 1st, 978 - Megasaurarse right behind them in 2nd place. The final downwind leg had 969 - Natural Juices II going too far before gybing and were unable to make the mark which forced an early spinnaker drop and 2 sail reach to the mark. 987 - Megasaurarse & 977 - Take it Easy capitalised on this and carried their kites to the bottom mark in 1st and 2nd.

978 - Megasaurarse continued on to claim a maiden victory in a National heat! Congratulations to both Paul & Matt on this magnificent effort!!

Final Placings:

1st Paul & Matt - Megasaurarse

2nd Mick & Emma - Take it Easy

3rd Ken & Lachie - Natural Juices II



**14ft Skate 63rd National Championship
29 December 2019 – 06 January 2020
Ceduna Sailing Club, Ceduna. South Australia**

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**** Note**** 973 - On the Road Again will be awarded average points for their series so this heat will be updated once all heats have been sailed.

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Heat 4

Race postponed due to wind shifting from east to south west. Another windward return course with a gate at the bottom.

Lucky on 981 - Any Which Way gets the break off the start and leads by 30 secs at the top mark from Steve 973 - On the Road Again and Mick 977 and the rest of the fleet,

The downwind leg provides the action with multiple gybes trying to find the breeze. Lucky 981 - Any Which Way remains in front from Steve 973 - On the Road Again. Patto 972 - What Now and Silvio 937 - Gobstopper have a good run and pick up places at the bottom mark.

On the 2nd lap, Lucky leads by a minute from Steve and Paul Shiner 978 - Megasauarse has had a blinder of a work and comes out ahead of Mick and Pato.

At the bottom mark, Lucky leads from Steve and Paul then Patto, Mick, Silvio.

Lap 3 sees Lucky extend his lead slightly from Steve then Paul then Patto, Ken 969 - Natural Juices, Silvio and Mick. Keith 954 - Grey Ghost and Ray 962 - Double Decker Dog bringing up the rear. Bottom mark stays the same except Patto gets inside Paul - Megasaurarse.

Last work to the finish and it is an easy run to the finish for Lucky. Mathematics didn't come into it today with Lucky 981 - Any Which Way counting the correct lap numbers. Steve 973 - On the Road Again finishes 2nd with a fast finishing Patto 972 - What Now 3rd ahead of Paul 978 - Megasauarse who had another good day on the water.

Another good sail for all in shifting breeze, Simmo 962 - Double Decker Dog had trouble on the 1st Kite haul due to incorrect knot tying inside the jib and had to capsize in order to fix it. Again, there was only 12 minutes from 1st to 9th place today.

The class AGM will be held tomorrow morning at 9am at the sailing club.

Tomorrow is forecast to be blowing, so will see how that plays out and if we can get a race in.

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Heat 5

In a shifting SSE breeze at 12 knots racing got underway on another hotdog course. 981 - Any Which Way was 1st around the top mark followed closely by 972 - What Now with 973 - On the Road Again 3rd, 978 - Megasaurarse in 4th.

Plenty of gybes to get to the bottom mark.

The 2nd work saw the fleet split with some going left and the others going right, placings have swapped depending on the breeze they were in.

972 - What Now gets the lead from Silvio at the windward mark, Steve is in 3rd and Lucky has dropped to 4th followed by Mick Winney in 5th.

At the bottom mark the 2nd time it is Patto followed by Steve, Silvio and Lucky 4th.

3rd time at the top mark, Steve gets the gong with Lucky 2nd followed by Silvio. Patto lost out by coming to shore off the bottom mark.

Rounding the bottom mark for the final time is Steve in 1st, Lucky in 2nd, Patto 3rd, Silvio 4th.

The race to the finish sees Steve 973 - On the Road Again win with a close tussle between Lucky and Patto who beats Lucky by the narrowest margin (0.86 seconds). Silvio comes in 4th another 40 seconds behind, Paul on Megasaurarse tops off a good last lap and finishes 5th.

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Heat 6

Wind conditions same as in Heat 5 - SSE at about 10-12 knots.

Off the start the fleet splits once again, the left looks like it pays off but the boats that went out right come across in front. Steve in 1st, then Patto 2nd, Mick Winney in 3rd. Silvio in 4th has trouble with his kite and Lucky overtakes him. Ken is in last place after capsizing on the mark.

Downwind Patto jumps Steve in the race to the bottom mark. Mick sneaks into 2nd place ahead of Steve as well as Lucky comes around 4th. Paul on Megasauarse in 5th, hits the drink and capsizes losing 4 places.

The next work sees the fleet split again with boats looking for breeze either side of the course. Patto retains his lead from Mick, Steve is in 3rd, with Lucky in 4th, Silvio 5th. Bottom mark it's Patto, Steve in 2nd passes Mick then Lucky.

At the windward mark for the final time it is Patto from Steve then Lucky, Mick, Ken and Silvio. Patto gets around the bottom mark 1st with Steve and Lucky having a close tussle downhill with Lucky rounding in 2nd followed by Steve in 3rd.

1st across the line is Patto on What Now sailed excellently in the swinging breeze, Lucky gets Steve on the last work and gets 2nd by 12 seconds. 4th was Ken who pips Silvio by 14 seconds with Mick only another 2 seconds behind.

Keith comes in 7th with Paul only 2 seconds behind him. Simmo rounds out the fleet a further minute 19 seconds behind. The close racing sees the fleet finish again within 9 minutes of each other. Another great day of Skate sailing.

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Heat 7

Race starts in a 15 knot south east breeze, the fleet comes to the left side of the course up the first work, with Patto getting to the windward mark first, followed by Steve and Mick Winney in 3rd. Lucky is in 4th after a testing work.

At the bottom mark it is Patto going to the right of the course and Steve in 2nd going to the left. Patto looks like he has problems and looks like he nearly hits the piss. Lucky does a 360 after hitting the mark or port/starboard with Patto?

Top mark the 2nd time and Steve has had a great work up, 2nd is Ken with Mick, Patto, Silvio and Lucky is panicking. Lucky goes out to sea and pulls a lot of ground back but Steve is round 1st, then Mick, Patto, Silvio, Lucky and Ken loses ground downhill.

Keith is still battling to get to the top mark to head downhill the 2nd time after losing time in a capsize with his kite up.

The 3rd work see Steve come to shore again and the top runners are sailing a close race. Patto has a blinder and gets to the top mark first just in front of Steve then Mick and Lucky and Silvio. Steve gets the kite up quickly and passes Patto downhill, the race is on!!

Steve gets to the bottom mark first from Patto, Silvio, Mick then Lucky who went out to sea again and lost out this time. Keith gets lapped by the front runners up the work with the racing as close as it gets.

Steve gets the gun with Patto 5 secs behind, Silvio gets 3rd ahead of Lucky who appeared hit the finish mark. Less than a second between Silvio and Lucky.

Mick comes in next 11 secs behind them, Ken, Paul and Ray complete the course whilst Keith perseveres to round out the series with a finish.

From these results, Steve and Bodhi sailing 973- On the Road Again are the National Champions (back to back)!! Great Effort!!

Congratulations to all competitors for a fantastic series and many thanks to Ceduna Sailing club for hosting another successful event!