

South Australian "A" Class State Championship

South Aust A Class Championship Final Results			
Position	Skipper	Sail No.	Score
1	Steve Arthur	7	28
2	Allan Edward	25	54
3	Brian Purvis	53	66
4	Bob Fleming	97	102
5	Bob Watson	41	121
6	Dean Tilley	32	175

This championship was held on 25th and 26th March at the SARYC venue of West Lakes and conducted by the Stirling Marblehead Yacht Racing Club with help from the South Australian Radio Yacht Club and on behalf of the South Australian Radio Yachting Association.

There were six entries including two from the ACT and racing began on Saturday with Northerly winds of about 5knots however this was soon to change to North West and quickly to a Westerly of 8 – 10 knots with sunny conditions.

Steve Arthur jumped into an early lead and, despite challenges from Allan Edward (second at close) and Brian Purvis, held the lead at the end of the day. Bob Fleming was sailing a loan boat was having a little trouble coming to grips with it under SA conditions but showed that he could mix it on occasions.

Sunday was slightly cloudy and forecast to start with North East winds of 6 – 8 knots then changing to South West winds of 8 – 13 knots after lunch. As so often happens someone forgot to tell the weather bureau and the morning began with a Southerly of about 6 – 8 knots gusting to about 18knots. This tested the sailors mettlles with some very unusual antics from the boats which were all carrying A rigs.

Unfortunately Bob Watson became ill overnight and was unable to sail on the Sunday so we were, with the retirement of Dean Tilley on Saturday, reduced to 4 boats. The competition was no less fierce because of this as everyone tried to run Steve Arthur down. Despite some good efforts by Allan Edward Steve ran out a comfortable winner with Allan coming second.

Brian Purvis (aged member of the fleet) nearly caught Allan but had to settle for third after some trim alterations. Bob Fleming found a few gear problems and probably wished from time to time that he had a smaller suit of sails.

Thank you to the competitors for their great conduct especially to Allan and Bob for their trips to our state.

Thank you to all the helpers who gave their time to help make the event a success.

Trevor Jeffree
For Stirling Marblehead Yacht Racing Club