

South Island Sunburst Championships at Vauxhall Yacht Club

by Korena Paterson

The weekend of 26th and 27th of November 2016 has been a windy one with planes aborting landing at Momona Airport, fatalities at sea in the North Island. The coastal forecast for Chalmers has seen constant gale warnings, but despite this an enthusiastic group of sailors turned up to compete at Vauxhall Yacht Club.



Sunburst South Island Championships 2016 – Vauxhall Yacht Club, Nov 26-27 by Korena Paterson

Thirteen sunbursts competed in the Sunburst South Island Championships at Vauxhall last weekend. As well as competitors from Dunedin, boats travelled from Canterbury and Oamaru. It was also great to have a good number of high school sailors competing this year.



With a terrible forecast of gale NW, W and SW winds and conversations about cancelling the event in the week prior no one felt very optimistic about the chances of there being much racing over the weekend.

The race committee did a fantastic job getting 4 races run back to back on Saturday with a mix of windward/leeward and triangle courses. Racing was incredibly close with many boats finishing within seconds of each other and multiple position changes throughout each race. Typical of westerly winds, shifty conditions made sailing challenging and frustrating at times with some big gains to be had when you got it right (and horrible losses when you didn't!). The top mark proved particularly interesting, seeming to sit in the shiftest spot possible.



Sundays racing (complete with SW gale warning) was an added bonus after it looked unlikely we would get back out on the water. With 18-22 knots when racing started it was perfect conditions for some boats with the gusts keeping everyone on their toes. Race 6 of the series produced some of the most dramatic sunburst sailing experienced by most crews on the water when a spectacular squall complete with piercing hail ripped through the fleet as they turned to head to the finish line. Those with spinnakers up held on tight and literally flew down the course with only half a metre of the back of the boat in the water and travelling faster than most thought it possible for a sunburst to go. Those on the shore watched the spectacle and the carnage with numerous capsizes. Adrenalin was pumping as the boats came ashore and the event finished on a real high. Amazingly there were no reports of major damage, although almost every wind indicator was destroyed. James Harrex posted a nice piece of video on the Sunburst Facebook page of the downwind blast with kites up.

Within 15 minutes the wind had eased back to a lovely sailing breeze but no one was upset the race committee didn't send us back out for race 7.



Cantabrian Matt Neale sailing with daughter Emmeline in ex Otago boat #1055 "Moonbeam II" dominated the event winning 4 of the 6 races and finishing 5 points clear of 2nd placed #1816 "Tecary" (Craig Tomlinson and James Palleson). Third place was very tight with 4 boats all within 3 points of each other with #1182 "Amazon" (Pete McGrouther and Korena Paterson) just sneaking ahead of #1783 "Lion Foundation" sailed by Samuel Cornfoot & Meyer Flynn by 1 point and a further point back to veterans Roy Roker and Jim Godfrey sailing #1687 "Beverley Ailsa", and another point back to Murray & Heather Walls sailing #1632 "Fun" .

A huge thank you to Vauxhall Yacht club for their usual wonderful hospitality and the race committee for great job in trying conditions. Another fabulous Sunburst regatta!!

SUNBURST ST CHAMPIONSHIPS

NO	NAME	SKIPPER	CREW	RACE 1		RACE 2		RACE 3		RACE 4		RACE 5		RACE 6		RACE 7		Sub	Overall	Overall	
				PLACE	PTS				TOTAL												
1055	Moonbeam II	Nr Pleasant	Matt Neale	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	4	4			11	4	7	1
1816	Tecary	Pleasant Point	Craig Tomlinson	2	2	8	8	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3			20	8	12	2
1182	Amazon	B6BC	Pete McGrouther	6	6	5	5	9	9	4	4	2	2	1	1			27	6	18	3
1783	Lion Foundation	PCYC	Samuel Comfoot	3	3	4	4	6	6	2	2	4	4	5	5			25	6	18	3
1687	Beverley Ailsa	MBBC	Roy Roker	5	5	2	2	2	2	9	9	6	6	10	10			39	10	20	5
1632	Fun	Wamak	Murray Walls	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	DNC	14	35	15	21	6
1680	Cock n Bull	PCYC	James Cross	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	38	8	30	7
1576	Soothsayer	Wamak	Mike James	7	7	6	6	5	5	8	8	DNF	14	7	7			47	12	33	8
886	Raider	VYC	Alasdair Sims	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9	6	6	6	6			53	10	43	9
1218	Fast Forward	NOYPBC	Alex Murdock	11	11	10	10	8	8	10	10	6	6	10	10			57	11	46	10
1699	KHS 2 (Green)	VYC	Riley Symon	12	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	9	9	DNF	14			69	14	55	11
1407	Merrigan	VYC	Ryder Green	DNF	14	11	11	12	12	12	12	DNF	14	3	3			71	14	57	12
1728	Eagle	Pleasant Point	Rhys O'Kane	9	9	DNC	14			79	14	65	13								

Points 1=1 2=2 etc.
 DNC/DNS etc... 1 more than number of starters
 Worst perf dropped after 6 races
 Second worst performance dropped after 8 races
 Minimum of 5 races to constitute a series

2016 SUNBURST CHAMPIONSHIPS HANDICAP

NO	NAME	SKIPPER	CREW	RACE 1		RACE 2		RACE 3		RACE 4		RACE 5		RACE 6		Sub	Overall	Overall	
				PLACE	PTS				TOTAL										
1182	Amazon	Pete McGrouther	Korina Paterson	3	3	5	5	6	6	2	2	2	2	1	1	19		19	1
1687	Beverley Ailsa	Roy Roker	Jim Godfrey	4	4	3	3	5	5	3	3	10	10	9	9	30		30	2
886	Raider	Alasdair Sims	Gordon Clark	11	11	1	1	4	4	9	9	1	1	7	7	33		33	3
1816	Tecary	Craig Tomlinson	James Paterson	2	2	11	11	7	7	6	6	4	4	4	4	34		34	4
1680	Cock n Bull	Jarvis Cross	Jared Solomon	6	6	2	2	12	12	4	4	9	9	2	2	36		36	5
1783	Lion Foundation	Samuel Comfoot	Meyer Flynn	5	5	9	9	9	9	1	1	5	5	8	8	38		38	6
1055	Moonbeam II	Matt Neale	Emmeleine Neale	1	1	10	10	10	10	5	5	6	6	6	6	38		38	7
1576	Soothsayer	Mike James	Jeanette James	8	8	4	4	3	3	8	8	DNF	14	10	10	47		47	8
1632	Fun	Murray Walls	Heather Walls	7	7	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	DNF	14	51		51	9
1699	KHS 2 (Green)	Riley Symon	Adam Masaki	10	10	12	12	1	1	11	11	3	3	DNF	14	51		51	10
1407	Merrigan	Ryder Green	Rueben Towers	DNF	14	7	7	2	2	12	12	DNF	14	3	3	52		52	11
1218	Fast Forward	Alex Murdock	Ethan Wilson	12	12	6	6	11	11	10	10	8	8	8	8	56		56	12
1728	Eagle	Rhys O'Kane	Sebastian Bariloux-Barbaroso	9	9	DNC	14	79		79	13								

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