

## NSW Windsurfing Series

04-05 Oct.2008

### Heat 1

#### Jimmy's Beach, Hawks Nest

I don't know what it is about this venue, but it never seems to disappoint.

I arrived a couple of days early to warm up, literally. 34degrees in Oct, but zero wind! Still hanging out on the surf beach with the dolphins and clocking up some Brownie points with the family is not such a bad way to kill time, pre a Windsurfing Event.

With a weekend forecast of only 5-10knots, from about 4 different directions, it is fair to say that expectations of quality racing were low.

Still come Saturday morning 41 competitors were blessed with perfect 12-15knots perfect racing conditions.

#### **Lesson 1 – Don't ever let the forecast stop you turning up to a race event.**

After the usual first race of the season "General recall", followed by a long wait for the over jealous guys to complete a lap so we could have another start, which turned out to be a blessing, as the wind filled in even more.

The ever expanding FE+ fleet (now minus last years winner – John Pearce AUS-185) was to have a new face take 1st positions in race 1. (congrat's to Tristan Perez AUS-093)

The next 3 races were dominated by Mick Saunders AUS-149, with non other than the old salt and our ex-race officer – Barry Fawkes winning race 5.

Clearly the FE+ racing is growing in popularity and competitiveness, with 3 different winners and 3 completely different guys coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in 5 races (Peter Ineson AUS-666, James Vandervoort & Andrew Rowbottom AUS-567).

#### **Lessons from the FE+ guys:**

- Geoff Kitchen AUS-230.** Why buy sails when you can make your own?
- Mark Chinnery AUS-790.** Why finish a new trailer in winter when you can miss the 1<sup>st</sup> days racing doing it?
- James Vandervoort (No sail #).** How many "Vandervoort" brothers are there, 3?
- Paul Craig (No sail# yet).** Experience shines through (go to lesson 1). He drove from QLD to race.
- Tom Chinnery AUS-054.** Just keep smiling.
- David Lester AUS-187.** Last to every race briefing is harder to do than it looks.
- Lewis Pullen AUS-080.** Never going to a race briefing reduces stress, and lets you sleep in longer.
- James Farley AUS-173.** Peak early! 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the first 2 races, followed by a string of DNF's?
- Peter Ineson AUS 666.** Have mast, will break. Just keep smiling!
- John Hurley AUS-711.** New car with tow bar = towing rescue boat back to Sydney.
- Thanks Man.*

**Peter Hocking AUS 746**

Hardest lesson ever - Never use brand new kit on race day. I felt your pain.

A similar scenario was developing in the Formula Fleet with extremely close racing between the top 7 or 8 guys, and only a small gap back to the bulk of the fleet. Noticeable improvers from last year was, Chris Ting AUS-5, fresh back from the worlds in Portugal, Rick Murray AUS-4 (almost winning race 4), Remi Dunoyer FRA-73 with top 10 finish, Nathan Bowness AUS-70 right on the pace with only a 10m sail & Jason Roditis AUS-200 for the best pony tail. It should also be noted that last years FE+ winner (John Pearce) was an impressive 12<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Random weekend observations:**

- Melbourne can't play League, Manly were a class above. 40 nil...Ouch.
- Tillermans restaurant in Tea Gardens is special. Great food, wine and owner.
- The Golf Club is the most "HOT / COLD" venue in NSW.
- Good coffee in Hawks Nest has yet to be found. Suggestions welcome.
- 20 wives & girlfriends sitting around a table, created enough noise to silence a jumbo taking off.
- The child to competitor ratio is increasing, with more to come – congratulations Sam and Ruth Parker.
- Word is there is an engagement to celebrate, but not sure if official so will have to check with Tam before I say anything.

Huge thanks to Graeme Morris for being Race OD and general "go to" man for the weekend. Thanks again to John Hurley for taking the rescue boat back to Sydney. Thanks to Chris Ting for a lot of prep work before the event, specifically the rescue boat.

Thanks to all the competitors, family and friends who made it such a great beginning to the season.

Next stop on tour: **18-19 Oct08, Huskisson, Jervis Bay.**

Don't miss one of the best sailing locations in NSW if not Australia. [www.storm-riders.com.au](http://www.storm-riders.com.au) for maps/directions etc. Plenty of accommodation still available.

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