

2023 Australian Sports Boat National Titles



MORETON BAY
TRAILER BOAT CLUB

Hosted By Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club



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The 2023 ASBA National Titles have been run and won to crown a new champion under a new rating system and the ASBA LTP Handicap system. This year's regatta included the Australian Sailing CBH Rating System after the ASBA members voted to change the primary rating system at a ASBA Special General Meeting late last year. It has been a joint effort between the ASBA general committee, the ASBA tech committee, Australian Sailing approved measurers and the rating office from Australian Sailing including Glen, Mel and

Chris that have work tirelessly to make the change over as seamless as possible.

The regatta consisted of various design sports boats ranging from an I550 that the ASBA committee gave an exception to for the regatta to join the and race to the largest being a Bethwaite 79er at 8m long and 3.5m wide. The regatta also consisted of multiple previous winners including Luke Ratcliff and Andrew York on their REO design boats and Malcolm Dean on his newer custom Shaw 650. There was also a range of the original generation sports boats including a Thompson 7, Elliott 7 and 780, but the majority of numbers came from 6 boats out of the 6.5m range which included 1 Leech 650 and 5 Shaw 650s and a Viper 640.

We have to give thanks to the Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club and their RC, they managed to get a 7-race series over the 3 days to call the championships but it was not without complications.

The 1st day the fleet left the Manly Harbour in moderate conditions to find mid-way through the 1st race for conditions to be pushing the upper limits. At least one race was run before the RC called it a day because of the conditions. Race 1 had all sorts of stories, winners and losers, and I am sure all were spoken about at the bar! But we will go over a few again.



One of the biggest stories of the days is an Ex-champion Malcolm Dean having a problem with his jib before the start and pulling the clew ring out. The team returned to shore for repairs and returned to the racecourse for the RC to call it a day! That was only one of the mishaps for day 1! There were tops speeds, capsizes and broken rudders from across the fleet but with 3 very different boats, a REO 7.7 (1st), Elliott 7 (2nd) and 79er (3rd) claiming the day on CBH and the same boats in the top 3 but the E7 Easy Rider coming out on top with a 1st. Unfortunately, a broken rudder on the Viper 640 putting the Crazy Little Thing team out for the rest of the regatta.



Day 2 turned out to be a lot more favourable with a moderate breeze to greet the sailors. With the RC putting forward 5 W/L to make up for lost races from the previous day it was game on for the championship contenders.

With Graham Sherring and his team putting on a master class on their Shaw 650 Lickety Split to make up for day one. At the end of day two they became outright leaders of the CBH rating results after 5 1st places edging out the Bethwaite 79er Vivace, REO 7.2 Re-Heat and REO 7.7 REO-Speedwagon teams. On LTP Handicap results boat of the day went to Elliott 780 BRE with 2x 1st places and 4th edging the T7 Electric Avenue team.

With the Championship wrapped up for CBH the minor places and LTP championship were left to fight for on day 3. With a longer passage race scheduled with the Manly Combined Club Series, the boats left the harbour in glass out conditions. The RC had no choice but to AP the race and wait for the wind to fill in. While waiting, good times were had with some crews swimming and jumping off their boats while drifting around and I'm sure that there were cold beverages consumed to keep the athletes hydrated also.

A light Easterly ended up filling in enough to get a race underway and the boats set off to Hope Banks marker for a course that was to be 14NM around Moreton Bay but with the light conditions the RC shortened to a course of upwind to Hope Banks downwind back across the bay and between Green and St Helena Islands and back up to Lockyer Mark. Over the course the tide and wind shifts played a big part with The Stig Shaw 650 picking the east side of the course and making good gains on the fleet and coming away with a win on LTP handicap. The longer passage race also suited the Bethwaite 79er Vivace team as they were to sail to a 5min lead over REO 7.2 Re-Heat.



With the success of the Shaw 650 Lickety Split at these titles we caught up with Shaw 650 designer Rob Shaw and Kipsan Beck the Shaw 650 production boat builder.

Rob Shaw says: "It's great to see renewed interest in the sports boat fleet and new boats being built, but it's also really interesting to see how successful the 650s continue to be, more than 20 years after the first one was launched. It's great to see this design still winning regattas, under a range of handicap systems, and to see that production boats perform just as well as custom builds."

"We are proud to see Graham Shearing and Lickety Split enjoying the conditions to win," said Kipsan Beck. "Great sailing conditions and the evolving rating system enables different designs to race

together, ASBA racing is about enjoying maximum speed & fun at a minimum cost – that was the idea of the Shaw 650 from the beginning.”

The 2023 ASBA Nationals were a great success with Michael Brierley ASBA President after the regatta commenting, “The comradery demonstrated among all was outstanding and in the end the racing was exceptional. The ASBA would like to continue the success of this regatta and invite all sports boat owners to join the fun at the next regatta.”

Final Results

CBH

1st Lickety Split, Shaw 650, Graham Sherring

2nd Vivace, Bethwaite 79er, John Rae/Gary Smith

3rd Re-Heat, Reo 7.2, Luke Ratcliff

LTP

1st BRE, Elliott 780, Peter Coulam

2nd Elektrik Avenue, T7, Joshua Walker

3rd Peow Peow, Shaw 650, Gav Arnold



Keep a look out on the ASBA website and Facebook page for updates and upcoming regattas and we will see you back on the water soon!

