

MLMYC RC Laser Club Championship Round 1 – Mawson Lakes 3/2/19

Skipper	Sail #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Disc.	Nett	Place
K Stringer	39	2	5	3	2	2	4	5	2							26	10	16	4
P Curtis	44																		
D Turnbull	55	DNF	DNS	7	5	5	7	4	5							49	16	33	7
L Sawyer	171																		
J Berry	256	3	6	5	DNF	7	6	6	4							45	15	30	6
A Heard	192																		
J Nieuwen	148																		
M Easton	165																		
S Ross	254																		
B Whitehead	259	4	2	4	6	6	5	7	7							41	14	27	5
S Cibich	279	6	3	6	3	4	1	3	1							27	12	15	2
J Luther	127																		
S Mitchell	245																		
G Polomka	7	5	4	1	4	3	2	2	3							24	9	14	3
R Cunningham	265																		
A Hayter	312																		
P Clerke	289	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	6							16	9	7	1
B Rowney	42																		

Sunday 3rd February saw the first round of the Mawson Lakes RC Laser Club Championship take place in fresh southerly winds. The SA RC Laser Series has been changed to become the MLMYC Club Championship this year to meet the expectations of an expanding club Laser fleet, which now numbers 20 boats. There were seven sailors present and I was race officer for the day. Garry Polomka, a regular and experienced ML45 sailor had his first direct experience of Laser racing, and Phil Clerke sailed in only his second or third major Laser event.

The wind varied in strength between 5-18 knots and in direction from south-west to south-south-east, making C rigs the preferred sail of the day and also making rounding the windward mark extremely hazardous. Phil Clerke and Steve Cibich actually started the day on B rigs and while they both sailed quite well, both changed back to C rigs after race 3. Phil quickly showed his domination of the day's sailing and he did this by usually quickly tacking to the port side of the course. With the wind tending southerly near the

windward mark, he often picked up increased wind on the far side of the lake. Steve Cibich had some ordinary starts early in the day, including two recalls at the start line, but he improved as the day went on. Kym Stringer, who is never out of the running, probably stayed on starboard tack for too long earlier in the day and found some big holes trying to work his way out to the windward mark. He also made at least one miraculous recovery where he went from 5th to 2nd in the last leg to the finish.

I actually thought John Berry and Don Turnbull had reasonable days. John put in a couple of good races but struggled with rounding the windward mark. Don had equipment failure at the beginning the day but in a couple of later races sailed near the front of the fleet to the windward mark, with excellent boat speed. Bob Whitehead had his usual flashes of brilliance but finished poorly for him.



Stephen 279 and Bob 259 got recalled for this start. Great photo thanks Mark Easton!

The stand out of the day was Garry Polomka. His first time racing a Laser and his downwind sailing was exemplary – I doubt that I have seen a better display by just about anyone. He rarely nosedived and that was an achievement. Well done Garry and we look forward to having you as a regular in the fleet.

The day belonged to Phil Clerke however. He totally dominated the day, and Lindsay Sawyer and I had better have a rethink about winning the Club Championship this year. Phil is good, very good. His upwind sailing is superb and his ability to pick wind shifts is excellent. Only his downwind sailing and nosediving needs improvement. Yes – he can improve further!!

Adrian Heard