

1980-1981 Australian National Cherub Championships

by Robert Keeley.

As published in *Australian Sailing*, March 1981

Perth, Western Australia

NSW combination Phil Smith and Vicki Weeks won the 1980-81 Cherub Nationals sailed at South Perth Yacht Club on the Swan River. Sailing a boat designed by his brother, incorporating Phil's ideas, Smith and Weeks won mainly through consistent sailing in all weather. Their boat *Wop*, different to most of the Murray-based designs in the 43-boat fleet, was not much faster throughout the series. But Smith displayed an uncanny ability to pick where to go in the light and shifty easterly breezes which dominated the series. He also recovered well if he found himself well down at the first mark. His worst placing (sixth) was obtained after he spent a lot of that race near the middle of the fleet.

Wop's nearest rivals, West Australians Matt Busby and Mark Bullard sailing *Heads or Tails*, were unable to get to the lead when the winds fell light. Their teamwork, however, in heavy and medium-strength winds was exemplary. Third overall was another WA boat, *Free in Easy* sailed by Brett Matich and Richard Howell. Each of the placegetters won two heats, which indicated how close the racing was.

The only other heat winner was another West Australian boat, *Sprightly* skippered by Craig Hughes. Victorian boats showed they could challenge the top three by taking five places in the top ten. Their best contender was *Pink Floyd*, sailed by brothers John and David Floyd, fifth overall.

Wop used Elvstrom sails (made by Smith) and a Peelgrane spar. It is a foam sandwich hull. *Heads or Tails* is a ply modified Murray hull, carrying locally made WA sails. *Free in Easy* is a foam sandwich McConaghy hull.

The next Cherub Nationals will be at Henley Beach SC in South Australia.

- 1, *Wop* (P. Smith, NSW) 2-3-1-3-5-6-1, 24.4
- 2, *Heads or Tails* (M. Busby, WA) 1-1-20-2-310-12, 42.7
- 3, *Free in Easy* (B. Matich, WA) 3-2-44-1-15-1-8, 44.2
- 4, *Sexy Nix* (B. Smith, NSW) 5-5-12-13-2-9-3, 61.7
- 5, *Pink Floyd* (J. Floyd, Vic) 14-13-2-11-14-2-5, 72
- 6, *Sprightly* (G. Hughes, WA) 15-4-21-8-1-5-15, 74
- 7, *Great Balls of Fire* (D. Jefferies, Vic) 12-ret-4-7-4-15-4, 76
- 8, *Crushed Nuts* (B. Johnson, Vic) 4-7-9-ret-6-17-10, 86.7
- 9, *Last Chance Power Drive* (R. Keeley, Vic) 11-17-312-12-13-6, 89.4
- 10, *Uptight* (S. Fries, Vic) 6-9-16-19-9-18-2, 90.7

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