

1983-1984 Australian National Cherub Championships

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Georges River, Sydney, NSW

After winning the Cherub national titles at Georges River Sailing Club, skipper Michael Lehmann almost met with disaster. Lehmann and his crew on *Colourfast* were thrown from a seawall for their traditional dunking by fellow competitors. The tide was out, Littlewood did a belly flop and was winded, but Lehmann landed on his head and broke his back. A couple of vital vertebrae weren't damaged, saving Lehmann from paraplegia.

Lehmann had to beat off two other boats to secure the title. *High Fidelity* (Bryan Smith and Julian O'Mahony) who finished second to Lehmann in the last heat and overall, and *Show Off* sailed by Brett and Shane Beyer (third). The other contenders were NSW Sabot graduates Greg Hartnett and James Synge, who bought the NZ boat *Last Resort* after last year's World titles in Brisbane. The new boys, with little Cherub experience, gave the title a real shake but could not handle their boat as well as the others in heavier conditions, particularly downwind.



1983-84 Nationals on Botany Bay

All four leading contenders had good boatspeed in most conditions. Only one boat used a keel-stepped mast (allowed by recent rule changes) and fared badly. *Colourfast* had a Mylar main, but others who used Mylar finished well down the list.

Forty-three boats competed in mostly light to moderate winds.

- 1, *Colourfast* (M. Lehmann, N. Littlewood, NSW) 3-1-1-3-5-9-1, 21.4,
- 2, *High Fidelity* (B. Smith, J. O'Mahony, NSW) 1-3-2-9-6-2-2-, 26.4;
- 3, *Show Off* (B. Beyer, S. Beyer, NSW) Dsq-6-3-2-2-1-4, 31 4;
- 4, *Last Resort* (G. Hartnett, J. Synge, NSW) 2-17-4-1-3-4-5, 34.7
- 5, *Double UA* (S. Prosser, G. Pusterla, WA) 12-4-6-7-1-3-6, 50.1
- 6, *Bodalcea* (P. Green, M. Green, WA) 9-2-5-14-11-dsq-3, 70.7;
- 7, *Lengineered* (D. Gibson, D. Brook, NSW) 8-5-9-10-10-6-7, 79.7,
- 8, *Nutcracker* (S. Fries, B. Johnson, VIC) 6-9-11-7-8-8-10, 84.7;
- 9, *Wings* (M. Beissel, E. Watts, WA) 7-14-7-11-13-5-11, 89;
- 10, *All the Aces* (J. Wilson, S. Ashwin, NSW) 5-12-20-12-16-7-8, 95

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