

1987-1988 Australian National Cherub Championships

By Jon Parrington

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Henley, SA

Protests dominated the close of an absorbing regatta for the Cherub Australian championship sailed at Henley in Adelaide. The series was won by Sydney skipper David Leigh with Craig Newton up front in their two year old boat, *Gumboots*, which flew in the light airs but struggled in the heavy conditions. Fortunately for Leigh the final day's two heats were sailed in extremely light conditions where the 18-year-old skipper, who's been in the class for just those two years, was able to easily sneak away from the rest of the fleet. They carried some 18 stone in *Gumboots*, while the majority of the fleet had at least two more stone in their boats, and Leigh admits that was the difference in the range of conditions.

Leigh won the two final races, one of them a resail of an earlier postponed heat, to seal the title while several other skippers adjourned to the protest room to fight out their final placings. Six protests were lodged from the morning race forcing a late presentation ceremony on the closing night. One protest was lodged over the eligibility of some recently built boats from Sydney. The protest alleged those boats didn't have the maximum floor thickness and were using stringers to strengthen the centreboard case and underneath the mainsheet blocks. The charge, which would have affected 12 boats taken out of a mould from the former world champion boat. *Foreign Affair*, which finished fifth here, was dismissed and these boats were included in the overall placings. SA's Damien Carey was one skipper who revelled in the heavy going where he won two heats on the big days, but the calmer airs were his downfall and he finished fourth.

- 1, *Gumboots*, (D. Leigh, NSW), 5-10-2-4-1-1-13, 37;
- 2, *Latest Edition*, (D. Witt, NSW), 2-3-7-6-2-20-3, 42.1;
- 3, *Liquid Lamington*, (T. Dillon, NSW), 4-4-8-2-7-2-9, 49;
- 4, *Axiom*, (D. Carey, SA), 1-2-16-1-9-14-20, 60;
- 5, *Foreign Affair*, (T. David, NSW), 8-DNF-3-11-17-5-2, 72.7;
- 6, *One Step Beyond*, (B. Peter, NSW), 11-5-5-3-5-17-15, 73.7;
- 7, *Skateaway*, (A. Turville, NSW), 22-6-11-13-4-15-4, 84.7;
- 8, *Pocket Rocket*, (A. Rodriguez, Vic) 9-9-9-12-DNF-8-7, 90;
- 9, *Max Factor*, (P. Read, Tas), 21-7-14-16-6-6-8, 97-4;
- 10, *Up The Creek*, (M. Benson, NSW), 6-11-6-DNF-13-13-17, 101.4.

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