

## 1992 1993 Australian National Cherub Championships and 1993 International Regatta

By Andrew Hewson

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### Perth, Western Australia

Andrew Hewson and Kane Sinclair won the Cherub class Australian championship, in a closely fought series with a fleet of 44, conducted by Royal Perth YC on the Swan River.

The conditions were testing with a short chop and, later in the series, courses which overlapped with the 16ft skiffs, Tasers and 14ft dinghies. The heavy winds expected eventuated only in the invitation race and heats five and six. The lighter breezes, plus the fact that at least half the fleet were on the pace, contributed to good, close racing. Only one boat, *Genetic Misfortune* sailed by John and Gary Boyd, was able to win more than one heat.

After breaking their mast at gate level in the invitation race, Hewson and Sinclair went on in *Go Hard or Go Home* to win the series with a race to spare. The first four places were taken out by crews from the Belmont 16ft Skiff Club, Lake Macquarie, NSW. *Syntax* (Craig Phillips, Martin Plentinger) was second. They and Hewson and Sinclair dominated the series through consistency with both crews each winning only one heat. Midway through the regatta, this consistency gave the two crews a gap on the fleet in the points, enabling them to almost match race each other in heats four and five. *Go Hard or Go Home* crossed line in front of *Syntax* at the end of heat six to take the series.

In third place, with two wins in the heavy air races were the Boyds, let down by their light-wind performance. Fourth were Matthew Crockett and Andrew Quinn who performed well on a chartered boat, *Liberator*.

First female skipper, in seventh position, was Suzie Ebeling, sailing with Michael Bartley on *Filthy Rocketship*. The first WA crew was Maria Ojeda and Grant Rollerson, eighth on *Hot Chili Peppers*. They were starting and rounding well but struggled to maintain their position in the competitive front pack. The South Australians, with the help of the SA railway company Railex, took a container full of boats to the championship with the best performer *Railex Refrigerated* (Damian Cathy, Deborah Gleeson) in 14th place.

The scheduled world championship to have followed on Cockburn Sound became, through lack of overseas competitors, an International Regatta with the current and world 505 champion Chris Nicholson, sailing with David Sullivan on *Dirty Girls in Lycra* added to the list of regatta favourites.

Consistency was again the key to success in the 50-boat fleet with each race having a different winner. The expectations of large waves and heavy winds were proven wrong with the Fremantle Doctor restricted by the extremely hot weather (45 degrees C). and gusty winds off the land.

Hewson and Sinclair, after a poor first heat, were able to climb back to a close third going into race seven just behind Phillips, Plentinger and Nicholson, Sullivan. This morning race started in 5-10 knots of breeze which progressively increased to 15 knots by the finish. The three top boats jumped from the rest of the fleet and sailed almost the whole first work within a few boat lengths of each other.

*Go Hard or Go Home*, second around the top mark but ahead of *Syntax* and *Dirty Girls in Lycra* gained a clear-air break and went on to win with enough places between them and their two nearest opponents to clinch the series. Nicholson, Sullivan and Phillips, Plentinger split going up the last work. Nicholson, Sullivan with a shift from the right were able to cross ahead to take second place.

The success of the Lake Macquarie boats has come about through extensive sail development programs and mid-week training sessions throughout the season which had as many as eight boats involved, every week, in all conditions.-  
Andrew Hewson



Cherub winners Andrew Hewson (right) and Kane Sinclair.

**Australian championship:**

- 1, *Go Hard or Go Home* (A. Hewson, K. Sinclair), 2,1,3,5,2,2,ns, 24.7;
- 2, *Syntax* (C. Phillips, M. Plentinger), 1,2,5,4,5,3,8, 36.7;
- 3, *Genetic Misfortune* (J. and G. Boyd), 3,13,11,7,1,1,5, 44.4;
- 4, *Liberator* (M. Crockett, A. Quin), 8,5,2,13,3,5,15, 61.7;
- 5, *Screamin Seamen* (M. Wren, L. Mortlock), 13,3,10,3,18,13,1, 65.4;
- 6, *Smoke my Peg* (G. Searant, A. Jackson), 5,10,1,2,nf,9,22, 72;
- 7, *The Filthy Rocketship* (S. Ebeling, M. Bartley), 19,7,4,9,12,11,3, 76.7;
- 8, *Hot Chile Peppers* (M. Ojeda, G. Rollerson), 4,4,7,12,15,16,4, 80;
- 9, *Mr Potatohead* (D. Williams, M. Ekert), 6,9,8,7,9,8,19, 82.8;
- 10, *Deep Sea Racing Prawns* (B. Portman, P. Harris), 17,8,6,11,14,4,25, 93.7.

**International Regatta:**

- 1, *Go Hard or Go Home*, 10,4,3,2,3,1,1, 30.4;
- 2, *Dirty Girls in Lycra* (C. Nicholson, D. Sullivan), 4,1,5,3,2,8,5,10, 40;
- 3, *Syntax*, 2,2,13,4,1,5,10, 40;
- 4, *Smoke My Peg*, nf,8,2,9,5,1,4, 50;
- 5, *Railex Refrigerated* (D. Carey, D. Gleeson), 1,9,12,1 1,12,3,9, 70.7;
- 6, *Genetic Misfortune*, 15,3,19,1,4,13,12, 71.7;
- 7, *Screamin Seamen*, 13,15,1,12,14,16,6, 76.1;
- 8, *The Filthy Rocketship*, 9,11,7,16,15,2,7, 82;
- 9, *Liberator*, 12,7,4,5,13,14,8, 82;
- 10, *Hot Chile Peppers*, 5,6,10,15,8,7,13, 83.7.

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