

1999-2000 Australian National Cherub Championships

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Belmont, NSW

The Belmont 16ft Skiff Sailing Club on Lake Macquarie hosted an excellent series in a truly professional manner with intense competition the order of the day but held in a friendly atmosphere.

Close racing and a good display of sailing ability was shown in the tussles between Belmont boat *Space Cowboy* sailed by the Quirk brothers and *South Park* steered by Scott Ewings with brother David as crew. Ewings and Quirk fought out the title in the last heat. Both put on spectacular displays but the Ewings brothers proved to be the better sailors on the day and snatched the title from the current state champion Michael Quirk.

Other winners were junior champion Adam Lancey from Belmont on *Extreme*, veteran champion Mark Matthews from Qld on *The Drop Pie Fairy*, and female skipper Michele Garnet from Belmont on *Agro*. Scott Ewings, was also cadet champion. Handicap honours went to Victorian boat *Boys Behaving Badly*.

Queensland boat *The Drop Pie Fairy* was first to impress winning the first heat and sailing well all series. They were unfortunate in the fifth heat when they had to retire due to broken gear. They were still looking good for a podium finish until the last heat, which they won, but were then disqualified. In a controversial protest they capsized after getting the gun and drifted back across the finish line. Rival boat from WA *TNT* had done exactly the same in heat five, also taking line honours only to capsize, re-cross and receive a disqualification. The protest committee had set the precedent when they disqualified *TNT* and had no option but to apply the same ruling to the Queenslanders.

1. *South Park* (S. Ewings, NSW). 7-1-10-1-42-1. 24;
2. *Space Cowboy* (M. Quirk. NSW). 4-3-3-2-110-3,28.1;
3. *Up N Coming* (W. Howard, NSW), 22-8-9-24-2,34;
4. *Xtreme* (A. Lacey, NSW), 9-7-65-5-1-dnf, 59.7;
5. *One Eyed Milkman* (S. Beeby. NSW). 12-5-9-5-25-8-4. 80;
6. *Hooray For Boobies* (B. Tardew. VIC). 6-dnf-9-13-6-13-6-13-12, 94.4;
7. *TNT* (WA), 8-4-12-7-dsq-21-11, 97;
8. *Bruised Banana* (T. Fay, NSW), 14-dnf-11-15-3-5-18, 97.7;
9. *Beam Me Up* (S. Day, NSW), 28-8-20-11-9-9-6, 98.7;
10. *Built For Thrashing* (C. Chittendon, NSW). 19-11-21-12-16-6-1,103.7.

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