

## Report on the 2nd Cherub World Championships 1972

As published in *Modern Boating* magazine, March 1972

### Auckland, New Zealand

STEVE Marten, a 23-year-old Aucklander, won the world Cherub class title in Auckland. Sailing *St. Paul*, which he designed and built, Marten had bad placings in the national series the preceding week when the boat's owner crewed with him. But the owner stepped down for the world series so Marten could have his regular crew, Trevor Burgess, and this proved the winning combination.

*St. Paul*, a modified Jennifer Julian, was launched only days before the national series and was still being tuned during the world contest. Marten's "happy-go-lucky" attitude was typical of the first three placegetters; he hadn't sailed since last Easter. Second place man Rex Sellers had hurriedly thrown his boat together for the series. This rather disillusioned the sloggers who had trained through winter and summer at every opportunity.

Both the New Zealand contest and the world series were held on the Waitcmata Harbour, Auckland, in an area surrounded by hills.

Boat speeds, despite radical differences in sail and hull designs, seemed very much the same. The New Zealanders, especially, had greatly advanced since the previous world series in hull design and cockpit layout and favoured flatter hulls and the use of highly efficient mainsheet traveller systems - both ideas from Jennifer Julian (the previous world champion).

Large skirts along the feet of the New Zealanders' spinnakers gave them a great deal more sail than the Aussies, but these seemed of little advantage as the reaches of the Olympic course were set at 60° and not 45°, and so were extremely tight (often too tight). The Aussies made up for their lost speed on square runs by successfully tacking downwind.

With seven heats and five to count it was consistency throughout which won Marten his title and gave the top boats their high placings. All racing except the invitation race and the abandoned heat 1 was run in breezes which blew off the land, ranging from 10 to 25 knots with gusts to 35 to test boat handling. However, the wind travelling over the hills would bounce off the water, leaving lines of heavy breeze lifting and knocking sometimes 20°. The shifts were frustrating, as one needed to be lucky or an extremist to be at the front.

Heat one was abandoned after protest because the race committee moved the wing mark 100 yards to leeward as the leading boats approached it. The following two heats saw the NZ boat *Boss-O-Nova* (R. Sellers) gain two runaway wins with NZ champion Omega (S Mitchell) second in heat two and *St Paul* second in heat three.

For the heat one resail the breeze freshened to 15-20 knots and *Zulu II* (Australia) chose the leeward end start, sailed a long knock, tacked and was first to the windward mark on a 15° lift. By the finish *Zulu* had a mighty lead with *Ikara* (WA) second followed by *Boss-O-Nova* and *St Paul*.

After finishing third to *St Paul* and *Ikara* in heat four (sailed in 15-20 knots) it seemed certain that Rex Sellers in *Boss-O-Nova* would be the winner. But Steve Marten finally got *St Paul* sailing well and he followed up his second fourth and first with wins in heats five and six to become unbeatable in the final heat, in which he was fourth.

*Ikara* seemed the winner of heat five but due to the shifts and his loose-covering of *St Paul* he lost a 200 yard lead near the finish to miss by 30 seconds.

World Junior champion Greg Phillips (*Ikara*, WA) closely pushed *Boss-O-Nova* for second overall but lost all chance when, in the final heat, his rudder snapped off while running third. *Zulu II* also won this heat which earned him fourth place overall and runner-up in the junior section.

### Results

- 1, *St Paul* (S. Marten, T. Burgess, NZ);
- 2, *Boss-O- Nova* (R. Sellers, R. Preston, NZ);
- 3, *Ikara* (G. Phillips, J. Gardiner, WA);
- 4, *Zulu II* (A. Leahy, M. Wulher, NSW);
- 5, *Q SJ B* (N. Paterson. B. Baker, NZ).