

## **SSANSW STATE TITLES REPORT - 20-21 February 2016**

In all, 19 Sabres entered the second consecutive title series held since the reforming of the NSW Sabre Association, including a visitor from Brisbane (Alan Wilson) and another from Canberra (Geoff Comfort).

Two races were held on Saturday in a gusty south to southeast 15-20 knot breeze providing tricky and testing conditions for the 16 starters on that day. In the first race, Eric Wiseman, Mark Owen, Barry Higgins and Geoff Comfort were out in front of a closely bunched fleet who were all enjoying the close racing in nice breeze. Race two was in similar conditions and this time it was a different order with Geoff Comfort, Eric Wiseman, Brad Gorman and Mark Owen out in front.

Next day saw another two races, very different conditions with a light and flukey 5-8 knot south east to east breeze, with plenty of holes on a good run out tide. With 19 starters in the first race, Eric Wiseman found a new challenger in Wendy Atkins with Mark Owen and Geoff Comfort at their heels. Wendy Atkins continued her light weather reputation in the second race and pressured Eric Wiseman who finally managed to get ahead at the finish followed by Wendy Atkins, Geoff Comfort and Brad Gorman.

Fittingly then, the consistency of Eric, Geoff and Mark in a good mix of conditions paid off and the series finished in that order. Congratulations go to Eric Wiseman as our new State Champion, and overall placegetters Geoff Comfort second and Mark Owen third. Congratulations to Wendy Atkins as our fastest Lady sailor, and Ladies second placegetter, Lois Wiseman. Our juniors raced well in the testing conditions and congratulations go to our fastest junior, Daniel Simpson with Sam Ebenezer second and Cameron Gordon third. To their credit, all juniors sailed with full size sails which would have been a handful in Saturday's conditions – well done all three.

My thanks and appreciation for a successful series go to the Association committee, Jamie Simpson, Geoff Palmer, Brad Gorman, Warren Almond and Cameron Gordon. And also to Connells Point Sailing Club and the committee and members who made the series possible by running the starter's boat, rescue boats, course laying, club canteen, result calculations and all the unseen things which made the series a success.

And finally to the sailors who competed in good spirit with fair sailing, thanks to you all for making a memorable series possible and trust you are all looking forward to another State Title series next season.

Peter Whitton  
President  
SSANSW