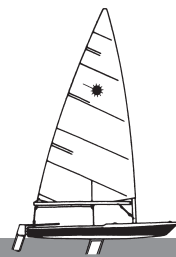


LaserWorld



THE INTERNATIONAL LASER CLASS MAGAZINE

WORLD MEN'S & WOMEN'S RADIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Record 39 nation fleet

Following on from the standard rig seniors and masters December was the turn of the Laser Radial fleet to visit Fortaleza, Brasil.

The first week the men and women were on the track and then it was all change for the following week when the Youth completed the last of a unique 4 world championship set. With the women having their first championship since the Laser Radial was selected as the Women's One-person dinghy for the 2008 Olympic Games there was naturally a lot of interest in the meeting of all the top sailors both old and new at one venue after an interesting season on the major event circuit.

On the first 2 days the weather was the biggest talking point as it was significantly lighter than had been seen at the standard rig worlds and during the two weeks prior to the first race when a large number of the sailors had been on site training. 8 to 12 knot winds with a big ocean swell

saw several expected favourites struggle in both fleets and big place changes from race to race over the first 6 races.

After 4 races Australian, Sarah Blanck, who placed fourth in the Europe class in Athens, surprised herself and others by leading the fleet having only started serious training 6 weeks prior to the event. In the men's fleet, a last minute entry, 17 year old Igor Lisovenko from Russia was leading a Brazilian trio who were looking for stronger winds.

With both fleets split into two qualifier groups for the first three days and six races there was relief all round when the third day produced a more normal 11 to 14 knot winds and the first discard brought a semblance of order to the top places. A consistent set of results saw ISAF World Youth Champion, Paige Railey USA, move to the top of the leader board ahead of Petra Nieman GER with Blanck in third and the Argentinean Cecilia Saroli flying the flag for South America in fourth after a win in the sixth race. Lisovenko maintained his lead ...continued on page 2



World Radial Youth Championships

20 knot winds and big seas gave an exciting ride for the 104 youth sailors from 26 countries in the opening race of their 12 race series. Blair McLay from New Zealand and Frederico Melo from Portugal won both their opening races of the 8 race, 4 day qualifier series.

Melo had an easy time of it on the second day. Leading at the first mark in both races he posted another 2 first places. He said "It was a little more windy in the first race but I like the strong winds as they are similar to my home club in Cascais." Behind him Antonis Tzortis GRE held second place throughout whilst 16 year old James Burman AUS took a number of boats on the first downwind to get to third. Burman took third in the next race after the Russian, Ivor Lisovenko pulled through to second from fifth.

McLay had to work a little bit harder in his fleet taking the lead after passing Ivan Tarirtas CRO and Jorge Garcia ESP on the first downwind leg. In his second race he worked out a 90 second lead as Tarirtas, Kyle Rogachenko USA and Daniel Jacobsson BRA fought for the minor places. Rogachenko was penalised by the jury as he tried to re-take Jacobsson on the last reach and his two turns dropped him



to fourth.

The wind eased to 18 knots for the third day and was more off the land giving flatter seas. Melo did not have a good day at the office. He said "I was on the wrong side of the shifts up the first windward and could only manage fifth place". Adam Fox from Great Britain took line honours by a few centimetres after an exciting tacking dual with Jorge Garcia ESP on the last upwind leg. In his second race Melo was leading a close group on the first downwind when, trying too hard, he caught the attention of the jury and had to make a two turns penalty dropping him to third. Rogachenko took the winning gun ahead of Garcia.

...continued on page 2



WORLD MEN'S & WOMEN'S RADIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS *continued*

on the chasing Brazilian group headed by Eduardo Couto and Daniel Jakobsson whilst Brad Funk got into the top ten with a first and second place after an indifferent first two days.

The wind held at around 15 knots for the next two days of racing and a clear pattern was emerging as those who enjoyed the stronger winds became more consistent. Railey's consistency was unrelenting as she held on to the leader position. Even a capsize, when leading the 10th race, only cost her two points! Her nearest rival, Anna Tunnicliffe USA in second place overall, was now 17 points adrift and was now more concerned about keeping the fast improving Sophie de Turckheim from France behind who had recovered from a bout of sickness earlier in the series.

Couto and Funk had displaced Lisovenko to third overall after the 4th day of racing in the men's fleet. After the 10th race a second discard came into play which narrowed the gap between Funk and Couto to ten points and brought Blair Mclay into the third place position after the Kiwi had posted a string of top five places whilst Lisovenko could only manage places in the teens in the stronger winds.

The final day of the championship produced the strongest winds of the series. Both Railey and Couto only needed one good result to take their titles. However both knew that the 18 to 23 knot winds could still upset them. Couto was more vulnerable having already been obliged to retire from a previous race after receiving his second yellow flag from the jury.

Couto made sure of his Championship by winning the eleventh with Funk second. In the same race Mclay lost his chance of the runner up

spot by finishing 7th which was just as well for Funk because he was black flagged at the start of the final race which he discarded to leave him in the runner spot one point ahead of Mclay.

Railey only needed an 18th in one of the remaining 2 races to be sure of her title. Whilst Evi Van Acker BEL was enjoying her lead in race eleven Railey was keeping a close eye on Tunnicliffe back in the teens. Railey was happy with her 15th, one place behind Tunnicliffe, but her fellow American had now put her runner up position on the line after de Turckheim posted a 4th. In the final race De Turckheim had to be no worse than 7 points behind Tunnicliffe to keep her newly gained runner up position. After a poor start to the championship the French sailor was now in the groove and celebrated a win in the last race to remove any doubts about her second place overall.

In winning the first Laser Radial World title since the class became the women's single handed equipment Railey showed a maturity beyond her 18 years of age. Although she has previously won grade one events and other major titles this was the big one. In a wide variety of testing conditions from 6 to 25 knots each day there were casualties amongst an experienced fleet. Railey never won a race and only scored three top three places. Quite often she fought her way back from lower positions to achieve consistent single results. This was a high scoring championship with a number of sailors able to hold their own at the front. Even so the rest of the fleet know they will have to raise their game significantly if they are to beat Railey next August when the Laser Radial World Championships are held at the California Yacht Club in Los Angeles.

World Radial Youth Championships *continued*

In the other fleet McLay scored another two first places to move into the overall lead 2 points clear of Melo after discard.

The wind was back up to 22 knots and gusting 25 for the fourth day and Melo was back out in front. In spite of being a few kilos lighter, shorter and younger than the others Burman flew down the first downwind to jump 4 places into the lead. He lost out to Melo and Taritas on the upwind but re-took them on the last downwind but could not hold back the taller Portuguese who passed the Australian on the last tack into the finish.

Melo took control of the second race on the second windward leg after Taritas attacked him on the downwind.

McLay continued his charge in his fleet leading the first race of the day from start to finish. The wind dropped to 16 knots for the second race. McLay was third behind Garcia and Enrico Stazzerra ITA at the first mark.

He moved through to second after the jury penalised Stazzerra on the downwind.

McLay went on to pass the Spaniard who was also overtaken by Tzortis.

The first day of the final series saw McLay and Melo race together for the first time with only two points separating them. The New Zealander had a perfect score while the Portuguese had a fifth place as discard.

Melo made his intention clear in the first race by crossing the fleet on port tack at the start in 20 knot winds. "It was a great way to start" he said, "but it then became difficult to control the fleet as half went left and the other half went right". He did a pretty good job of it rounding the first mark in second behind Ireland's Ryan Seaton. McLay dug himself out of a poor start to round seventh. Melo commented "I was worried about Blair and let him past me on the second upwind leg along with Ryan and James Burman. I then got them all back on the downwind but as I watching Blair, I let James through to win." McLay finished seventh and was still ahead of Melo overall. He now had a race on as he had used up the only discard he was allowed in the final series.

In the lighter winds of the second race Melo rounded the first mark in the lead with Mclay back in eighth. The next two legs saw a number of places changes in the top ten and McLay moving up to fifth by the end of the next upwind. The New Zealander gained another two places before the finish but saw his lead disappear as the Portuguese took the winning gun.

McLay entered the last day 1 point adrift of Melo. Both boats went off the start near the port end in 18 knots of wind under clear skies. The shifts were not so dramatic as previous races. Melo led McLay round the first mark but the New Zealander passed him on the first race and then extended throughout the race to win by 40 seconds.

They were now even on points. Melo needed to keep McLay out of the top two places and set about controlling McLay in the pre start. He got underneath McLay at the start. At the first opportunity McLay tacked on to port behind a group of boats with Melo following close behind and to windward. At the next shift McLay had the psychological advantage of crossing Melo who said "after that I seemed to run out of speed". McLay rounded the first mark eighth with Melo around 30th. Mclay still had a lot of work to do. He was still only fourth at the bottom of the last short upwind but with a cool head he picked off Jacobsson and Lisovenko to finish second behind Tzortis and take the title by a single point.



Taritas CRO leads Lisovenko

From our President

Congratulations to Paige Railey, Eduardo Couto and Blair McLay for their victories in the Women's, Men's and Youth World Championships in Fortaleza, Brasil. A record entry from 42 countries and 6 continents was a great way to finish 2005 – 3 world champions from 3 different continents.



Blair McLay & Cushla Hume-Merry with the organising committee

The Marina Park Hotel in Fortaleza was a great venue and the organising team led by Phillip Nottingham were just superb. This was first time we have run two double world championships at the same venue. There are not many places in the world where you can do that successfully. Jeff Martin told me he worked out that 148 world championship races were completed by the time the last race of the Youth Worlds was over.

2006 is going to be really exciting as the top sailors crank up their Olympic campaigns. Robert Scheidt has now confirmed that he will be sailing a Star in 2006 so the door is wide open for a new world champion in the Standard rig. Certainly some of the older youngsters at the Radial Youths will be looking to develop enough in the next year to make the transition to the standard rig. Blair McLay has already declared he is looking towards China. Ben Ainslie medalled

in Atlanta at the age of 19 so it is possible. In the women's fleet Paige has laid down a clear marker however I am sure that in Los Angeles a number of others will have upped their game.

The change from 2005 to 2006 in sailing is virtually seamless with half our members in the middle of their summer and the other half counting the days before they can feel the spray on their face. Living in Florida I can sail year round except when it's a bit too windy. I am currently spending my time coaching a Radial group but I am also keeping an eye on the activity in the southern hemisphere where the top sailors are continuing their non-stop campaign. They will soon be heading north again via Miami for the next big grade one event.

Wherever you are I wish you a happy and successful 2006.

Ian Lineberger

Laser Radial Upper Mast

The Laser class in conjunction with the Laser Builders have been investigating and testing composite upper mast sections for the Laser Radial Rig for the past few years. The selection of the Laser Radial as the women's one person dinghy for the 2008 Olympics occurred before the programme was complete. Testing was continued throughout 2005. Any modifications to Olympic equipment need to be approved by ISAF through a submission process that starts at the end of July. Given that the next opportunity for a submission would not have been until July 2006 for decision in November 2006 (only 1.5 years before the Olympics) the World Council decided to make a submission to use composite upper masts for the Laser Radial at the Olympic Games for consideration by ISAF in November 2005.

ISAF generally do not normally allow changes in established Olympic equipment within 3 years of the Olympic Games. They chose to remain with this policy for the Laser Radial. As a result of the ISAF decision there will be no change to the Laser Radial mast for the 2008 Olympic Games.

WORLD MEN'S & WOMEN'S RADIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Final results after 10 races with two discards:

Women			Men		
1	Paige Railey	USA 35,0 pts	1	Eduardo C. de Magalhães Couto	BRA 19,0 pts
2	Anna Tunnicliffe	USA 52,0 pts	2	Brad Funk	USA 29,0 pts
3	Sophie de Turckheim	FRA 55,0 pts	3	Blair McLay	NZL 37,0 pts
4	Petra Niemann	GER 60,0 pts	4	Andreas Reinisch Perdicaris	BRA 44,0 pts
5	Krystal Weir	AUS 61,0 pts	5	Martin Jenkins	ARG 47,0 pts

World Radial Youth Championships Results

Final overall results after 12 races and two discards:

1	Blair McLay	Male	NZL	18Y	13 pts
2	Frederico Melo	Male	POR	18Y	14 pts
3	Ivan Taritas	Male	CRO	18Y	29 pts
4	Antonios Tzortzis	Male	GRE	18Y	32 pts
5	James Burman	Male	AUS	16Y	37 pts

Full results: www.laserinternational.org

ISAF WORLD SAILING RANKINGS

Laser Standard

POS	NAME	NAT	PTS
1 (1)	Robert Scheidt	BRA	5017
2 (2)	Paul Goodison	GBR	5016
3 (3)	Andreas Geritzer	AUT	4845
4 (4)	Vasilij Zbogor	SLO	4831
5 (5)	Mate Arapov	CRO	4594
6 (6)	Gustavo Lima	POR	4514
7 (7)	Mafias Del Solar Goldsmith	CHI	4350
8 (8)	Milan Vujasinovic	CRO	4308
9 (9)	Bernard Luttmmer	CAN	4307
10 (10)	Tom Slingsby	AUS	4290

Laser Radial

POS	NAME	NAT	PTS
1 (1)	Paige Railey	USA	4400
2 (3)	Lizzie Vickers	GBR	3965
3 (8)	Krystal Weir	AUS	3867
4 (11)	Laura Baldwin	GBR	3726
5 (7)	Karin Soderstrom	SWE	3673
6 (5)	Lisa Ross	CAN	3664
7 (17)	Anna Tunnicliffe	USA	3591
8 (12)	Natalia Ivanov	RUS	3519
9 (10)	Charlotte Dobson	GBR	3454
10 (4)	Jen Spalding	CAN	3441

Full details available from:
www.laserinternational.org
 Numbers in brackets indicate previous position



AUDI LASER SOUTH BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

12 - 14 November, Florianópolis, BRA

André Streppell came out top of a strong fleet after a near faultless display ahead of second place Bruno Fontes and Portugal's 2003 ISAF World Champion Gustavo Lima in third.

The conditions were perfect during the whole event, with the sun appearing in Florianópolis after 40 day's of rain and strong winds. Streppell sailed superbly, winning six of the seven races to really stake his claim as eight-time World Champion Robert Scheidt's successor in the class. Fontes was a gallant loser, commenting, 'André was superior and deserved to win the championship.'

In the Laser Radial competition, Fabio Dutra came out on top ahead of Eduardo Pacheco and Geison Mendes, whilst Adriana Kostiw in sixth place overall finished as the top women.

Results

Laser: 23 competitors 1 André Streppell 6 pts, 2 Bruno Fontes 15 pts, 3 Gustavo Lima 18 pts, 4 Leanardo de Carlos Back 19 pts, 5 Carlos Fanucchi 26 pts Laser Radial: 23 competitors 1 Fabio Dutra 11 pts, 2 Eduardo Pacheco 13 pts, 3 Geison Mendes 17 pts, 4 Bernardo Lichenteberg 24 pts, 5 Henrique Silva 31 pts Laser 4.7: 12 competitors 1 Henrique de Vasconcelos 8 pts, 2 Allan de Oliveira 11 pts, 3 Caio Augusto 16 pts, 4 Ronaldo Pudell 23 pts, 5 Marlow Douglas 29 pts



10 Countries feature in Top Positions at the GMTEE.Com Laser Nationals

22 - 24 October, Royal Varuna Yacht Club, THA

Racing off the Royal Varuna Yacht Club resulted in 10 different nationalities taking the first 10 placings in the GMTEE.COM 2005 Laser National Championships of Thailand.

Asian-Pacific Laser champion, Dane Morton Jokobsen, headed the fleet. Jokobsen finished the six-race, five-to-count series, on eight penalty points. Wikki Nualkair THA won the Laser Radial class and Ruben Menke achieved first place in the Laser 4.7 class.

It was a highly-successful regatta and, with co-sponsoring by Heineken, the forty competitors, a big group of officials and supporters enjoyed a great weekend of close racing, good camaraderie and a promise of more good competitions coming.

RESULTS

Laser: 1 Dane Morton Jokobsen 8 pts, 2 Prontep Sookudom 10 pts, 3 Douglas Morris 18 pts, 4 Kevin Whitcraft 20 pts, 5 Joshua Philips 27 pts

Laser Radial: 1 Wikki Nualkair 5 pts, 2 Amorn Soontornjanagit 12 pts, 3 Ute Dorfner 15 pts

Laser 4.7: 1 Ruben Menke 5 pts, 2 Sebastian Lehmann 10 pts, 3 Celine Schmit 18 pts



2005 BARBADOS NATIONALS



Junior sailors excel in Barbados's 2005 National Dinghy Championships

Barbados recently staged its 2005 National Dinghy Championships which comprised a series of eight regattas held between September and November, and saw both Laser Standard and Laser Radial classes hotly contested throughout.

The Championships took place in Carlisle Bay in the South West corner of the island where wind direction, speed and sea conditions are always challenging. Wind speeds varying from a few knots up to twenty knots over the course of the Championships tested the skills of those racing a Laser for the first time, right up to the most experienced veterans.

In the Laser Radial class, fifteen year old Jason Tindale and the more experienced Chris Durant battled each week for the top spot. In the end Tindale, sailing for the first time in this class, emerged as overall winner with Durant placing a close second. Thirteen year old Holly Trew, also sailing for the first time in the class, put on an outstanding performance throughout to finish third overall.

Both Tindale and Trew began their sailing careers in Optimist dinghies and are graduates of the Barbados Sailing Association's advanced training programme.

Perhaps the most exciting battle of the Championships, however, was between Kwame Hinds and Charlie Gloumeau who fought consistently for top honours in the Laser Standard class.

The Championships were sponsored by the Barbados Olympic Association and local Barbadian companies, R.M.J. Agencies Inc. and Pine Hill Dairy. RESULTS Laser: 1 Kwame Hinds, 2 Charlie Gloumeau, 3 Miha Krumpak, 4 Neil Burke, 5 Peter Douglas Laser Radial: 1 Jason Tindale, 2 Chris Durant, 3 Holly Trew, 4 Mary Allen, 5 Cyril Lecrenay

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A full list of World Council officers appears in the Laser Class Handbook and at:
www.laserinternational.org

ILCA Finances

At the annual AGM meeting held in Fortaleza last September, the World Council approved the audited accounts for 2004. These are shown below with comparisons with the audited accounts from the previous year.

As the 2003 Senior & Master Worlds held in Cadiz, Spain did not finish until after our year end, they have been included in the accounts for 2004, together with the 2004 Seniors & Masters held in Bodrum, Turkey.

Accounts:	30.09.04	30.09.03
INCOME:		
Plaque fees	47,573	40,882
Sail button fees	46,808	29,440
Renewal Subscriptions	62,554	63,298
Sale of goods	12,119	8,391
Championship income	445,497	127,928
Interest receivable	22,009	17,838
	636,560	287,777
EXPENDITURE:		
Championship expenditure	420,432	108,992
Publications	15,892	19,510
Technical	40,284	-2,928
Coaching	7,823	
Office / Staff	100,847	105,677
Auditors / Bank charges	2,643	2,394
Depreciation	1,665	4,369
Cost goods sold (ad for stock)	13,371	7,178
ISAF / World Council	11,637	2,973
	614,594	248,165
Accumulated funds b/f	628,523	588,911
Surplus for year	21,966	39,612
Accumulated funds c/f	650,489	628,523

Change of Accounting Policy – Membership Fees:

This year we have implemented a streamlining procedure for collecting membership fees. Previously all fees were included on a receivable basis, whereby Districts paid at the end of their own financial year. Now it will be an invoice basis – with all Districts receiving an annual invoice in September each year.

Croatian Laser Championship

Uskok Sailing Club 3 – 6 November Zadar CRO

Most Austrian Laser sailors seemed to have forgotten this event. After the Slovenian Nationals they might have turned their brains onto "winter mode". This was a mistake, because they missed a nice regatta with top sailors in a beautiful area. After the opening ceremony a men's choir sang traditional songs and the 87 competitors from 9 countries were invited to a fine dinner.

There were 28 Standards and 56 Radials. Most countries are pushing hard in the Radial class since it has been chosen Olympic for girls but I am consistently missing our national letters in the sails of the fleets. In the standard rig all the Croatian elite, led by Mate Arapov were present. Naturally the rest of his countrymen were not willing to leave the national title to him without a fight.



Tonko Kuzmanic and Tonci Stepanovic, the two top medallists at the European Youth Championship in the Radial class showed sailed in the standard rig. They were leading on Saturday after three races in front of Arapov who obviously didn't like the light wind conditions. But in the end Mate took the

title again - maybe luckily – as it was extremely close. On 9 points he had the same score as Milan Vujasinovic, with Stepanovic in third place only one point behind. The top 7 places were all taken by Croatians, 6 of them by the guys from Split.

My intention going to Zadar was to meet and compete with some of Europe's (or even world's) best Laser sailors because I try to take every opportunity to practice and prepare for the Grand Masters Series in 2006. It was a fine event, well organized ashore and perfect courses on the water. What impressed me most was the young lady who was responsible for the excellent organisation, leading through the whole programme in perfect English. Congratulations, and sorry if I am wrong, but I think her name is Zrinka Grancaric.

Saturday evening the most successful Croatian sailors in 2005 – and it was a large number - were awarded and all competitors were invited to another great supper.

The entry fee of 11,- € including 2 meals and a chic sweater was a further reason to feel comfortable at Uskok Sailing Club. Whenever possible I will go there again and hope to meet more Standard Rig competitors at the Croatian Nationals the next years.

Report & Photo: Arthur Langenberger

2005 HONG KONG CHAMPIONSHIPS

26 - 27 November, Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, HKG

The largest one design racing fleet in Hong Kong attracted 45 entrants from countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Australia to their annual championships held over the 26th-27th November weekend.

The overall performance of the 15 teenage entrants was impressive with many deciding to sail the larger standard rig rather than the smaller radial sails. The enjoyment of so many Laser sailors being out together was evident to all.

The end of the first day of racing witnessed three brilliant duels between the current champion Matt Goulter and visitor Stanley Tan, a double Olympian in the Laser (Sydney and then Athens). Matt finished the day one point ahead of Stanley who was closely followed by 17 years old Eva Leung who had an outstanding day.

The fourth race saw many of the competitors, teenagers and adults alike, struggling to hold onto their large rigs. The first beat saw David Early, Jorgen Christensen and Indonesian sailing star Omar Agoes snapping at the stern of Matt Goulter who saw his overnight lead vanish as Stanley Tan took first place. In the youth fleet 15 year old Jamie Dalton worked his way to the lead and finished 7th looking strong after his back injury during the summer, while Eva Leung, not finding the heavier weather and big rig to her liking finished 16th.

For the fifth race the wind eased a notch although a number of competitors decided to call it a day and headed for home. The first two beats saw tight fleet racing and then disaster struck Stanley Tan when a stern deck fitting blew out leaving him stranded and out of the last two races, a huge disappointment to everyone. The fleet finishing order were Christensen, Goulter, Early and Richard Knight in close succession with even one mistake in the final beat risking costing them a place.

The last race saw the fleet down to 21 boats. The race leader enjoyed tight racing while for many of the remainder, with tired legs and aching

arms, often saw some spectacular gybes and capsizes. Richard Knight, David Leung and Cheung Ka Ho sailed consistently well throughout the entire race series and were always in contention for being in the final top 10 places, which they duly achieved.

Jamie Dalton who took the 1st Youth (Under 19) Trophy commented 'The first day always being the hardest certainly applied to this regatta as big wind shifts are more hair raising for me than high winds. A good start and plenty of weight over the side was the call on Sunday, it was a Laser champs to remember, I really enjoyed it'.

The final word goes to Stanley Tan, from Singapore who was so unfortunate not to complete the last two races.

"Having competed in major events like the Olympics and Laser Worlds as a former full-time competitive sailor, it's always tremendously fun and refreshing for me to go back to where the pleasure and thrill of Laser sailing really lies - at the club level.

Racing with other Laser enthusiasts at the recent Hong Kong Laser Championships was wonderful, no-frills grassroots Laser racing at its best! I look forward to doing more of it in the near future with my new friends." Stanley Tan. Full Results: www.rhky.org.hk Photo: Andy Service





OVERNIGHTING by Paul Hargan

It must have been the caffeine in the coffee and the three pieces of Cadbury's fruit and nut chocolate I had before going to bed, but I woke at 2.15 in the morning with my brain racing. How to attend all the regattas in the calendar this year without spending money on accommodation like Motels, Caravan Parks, shared houses, sleeping in my cramped little car, and the like.....Of course!

Sleep a-board the Laser! Could it be possible? Would it work?

The deck is a fairly level surface except for the monstrous hole in the middle. Fill in the hole! With a sheet of 14 millimetre plywood cut to fit on the grab rails along it's sides and resting on the centre board casing. It can't go anywhere except by levitation!? A four inch foam mattress laid out would make it very comfy.

What if it rains though? Some kind of a tarpaulin over me. No, better still, rig the mast and drop it in the mast step, and use the main sheet around the top section collar with a half hitch to support the boom and keep it central. Then drape the tarpaulin over the boom and shock cord it to the beach trolley and the Laser's gunwhales. A few different sized pieces of timber or the tool box to adjust the height of the bow on it's trolley rest, a couple of rocks behind the wheels to stop any movement, and Bob's your uncle and Fanny's your aunt!

I've already trialed it at the 'Big River Regatta' at Harwood Island and two very comfortable nights sleep was the result. One or two modifications are needed like, raising the boom well above horizontal to alleviate the dented scull when rolling over during the night. Also a larger tarpaulin with tent pegs driven into the ground so a mosquito net can be raised under it. It might get a little more complicated than that if you attend the regattas with your wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, children, or mother-in-law!

Oh, and there is always some bright spark who thinks it might be good fun to launch you in the middle of the night. Let me inform you, bright spark, of the speed and agility of an old soldier like me. I can be awake and out of there in two shakes, so your satisfaction will be short lived. The last unidentified thrill seeker moved me just two metres of the twenty needed to the water, before being scared off by my foul language!

Problem solved! What's the time? 2.45am. Now, back to the buxom brunette by the pool in my dreams!?

PS. Warning! Be sure to keep your weight forward or you'll tip up in the middle of your dreams!



NSW & ACT Coast Championships

BEYER AND WEIR DOMINATE

22 - 23 October, Lake Macquarie, NSW AUS

Brett Beyer and Krystal Weir displayed quality boat handling and sound tactics to win the NSW & ACT Laser Coast Championships. The regatta was run from Teralba Sailing Club on the northern end of Lake Macquarie.

Saturday saw light and variable winds with thunderstorms playing havoc with Ralph Ellis's (Principal Race Officer) plan to get two races in for the day. Only one race was completed leaving Ralph the sizeable task of trying to get three races away on day two of the regatta.



Jamie Wood placed fourth overall.

The NSW Laser fleet continues to go from strength to strength with 85 boats competing at the regatta. No doubt close racing will once again be on display at the forthcoming Australian Championships to be held over the New Year at Brisbane.

Day two saw a light sea breeze filter in during the regatta's second race followed by races three and four being sailed in a tricky 9-13 knot north easterly sea breeze.

Second place in the full rigs went to Canadian, Michael Leigh with Nick Skulander taking third place.

In the radial fleet, Will Howard snatched second place in a count back from Will Ryan by winning the last race while

Palamos Christmas Race

26 - 30 December, Palamos, ESP



The 30th edition of the Christmas Race came to an end with victory in the Laser Class for Danish sailor Anders Nyholm who was awarded the Memorial Manuel Albalat Trophy for his overall performance.

Second and third places went to Italian sailors Giacomo Bottoli (22 pts) and Michele Regolo (23 pts) respectively. Italian sailor Fabiola Magnanhi (13 pts) won the Laser Radial Class, followed by Martje Uecker (13 pts) in second place and Janika Puls (13 pts) in third, both from Germany. *Photo: Alfred Farré*



CLASS RULE CHANGES : IF YOU VOTE FOR THEM!

Even though the Laser is a strict one design class, it is important that the Class Rules are developed to keep pace with the new ideas and requirements of the sailing members of the ILCA. The following four proposed changes have been through the Technical and Measurement Committee evaluation process and gained the support of the World Council. They are now referred to all of the members of the ILCA for acceptance or rejection – so it's up to you. Please take advantage of your right to be part of this democratic process. Your vote is important.

Proposal 1. Rule 3(g) to be replaced as follows:-

- i *The clew of the sail shall be attached to the boom by either a tie line or a soft strap wrapped around the boom and through the sail cringle, a quick release system attached to a tie line or soft strap wrapped around the boom, or a "Builder Supplied" stainless steel boom slide with quick release system.*

The "Builder Supplied" stainless steel boom slide with quick release system is shown below.



- ii *If the clew tie down is a tie line, it may be passed through simple balls and/or tubes to reduce friction.*

This boom slide fitting has minimal friction so it is extremely easy to adjust the outhaul, which it will be particularly good for 4.7, Radial and general club sailors. It is not a fancy go faster device that further advantages the Olympic (athlete) level sailor. Extensive development has gone into the hook design, which will not allow unwanted release of the sail, but does allow quick release without removal of the slide, so rigging and de-rigging are much easier. As you can see, the sail is held very close to the boom. The slide has been tested over a two year period, with no noticeable wear to the boom. This is a fitting that has drawn enthusiastic support from everyone who has tried it, but if you don't have one you won't go any slower!

Proposal 2. Rule 13 to have the following wording added:-

The drain bung may be removed from the self bailer, and the self bailer opening pin may be secured to the cockpit floor with self adhesive plastic tape.

This is a Rule change that catches up with what a number of sailors have been doing for a long time. We've only just realised that it should be allowed by the Rules! It's a great help if you don't have to worry about kicking the bailer closed and ending up with a cockpit full of water on a windy day.

Proposal 3. Rule 14 to have the following wording added:-

The components of the "Builder Supplied" centreboard stopper may be secured together by glue, screws, bolts, nuts and washers, provided the original shape and dimensions are not reduced.

The stopper is important in ensuring that the maximum down position of everybody's centreboard is the same. The stopper is an essential part of the Laser, which may not be removed. Occasionally the self-locking components of the stopper have

been known to come apart. The addition of this wording will allow sailors to improve the strength of the joints between the stopper components, so there will never be any reason why anyone will have the need to sail without it.

Possible stopper retention methods are shown below. When using the method on the right, the screw needs to be inserted into the top of the stopper so it cannot touch the hull when the centreboard is in the fully down position.



Proposal 4. Rule 7(e)ii to be moved to be part of Rule 14 and have the wording modified as follows:-

A tie line or shock cord shall be attached to the small hole in the upper forward corner of the centreboard, and any of the bow eye, the cunningham fairlead, the "Builder Supplied" deck block fitting and the mast to prevent loss of the centreboard in event of a capsize. The tie line or shock cord may be looped around the bow, but shall not be attached to the gunwale. Attachment can be by knots or loops in the shock cord, and/or tie lines, shackles, clips, hooks or eyes.

Some sailors have looped their centreboard retaining shock cord around the bow before it attaches to the bow eye on the deck, so it is led away from the mast. This helps to prevent it from catching on the vang cleating block. The existing Rule does not specifically allow or disallow this. This wording change will tidy things up.

Hopefully you agree that these updates to the Rules maintain the strength and integrity of the Laser one design, merely making things a little easier for us all. Please indicate your agreement by voting to approve the proposals, either using the form below or using the electronic voting form at: www.laserinternational.org/rules2005

VOTING CLOSSES 31 JULY 2006!!!

CLASS MEMBER RULES VOTING FORM 2005

Please complete and return to arrive before 31 July 2006 to:
Rules Voting, ILCA, PO Box 26, FALMOUTH, Cornwall TR11 3TN, UK
or by fax to: +44 1326 318968

Family Name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

Country _____

Email Address _____

For each proposal, please ~~DELETE~~ either YES or NO as appropriate.

Proposal 1 - Clew Tie Down	YES / NO
Proposal 2 - Self Bailer	YES / NO
Proposal 3 - Centreboard	YES / NO
Proposal 4 - Centreboard & Rudder Blade	YES / NO



Slingsby wins on the water - loses in the Jury Room

Sail Brisbane 10 - 14 December, RQYC, AUS

Talented New South Wales Olympic Laser dinghy skipper Tom Slingsby learnt a special lesson in one design sailing rules on Brisbane's Waterloo Bay.

Slingsby had his sea bag 'lined with gold' when he sailed onto the course with a 3 point leading margin over the more experienced Brendan Casey to claim the Ronstan class trophy. But unfortunately the claim for Gold became tarnished when the younger Slingsby infringed the overtaking

rule when both he and Casey raced nip 'n' tuck at the head of the fleet as they approached the windward mark.

A crucial error of judgement and the human related error in electing to ignore a call of protest changed the whole complexion of the championship in the final heat when both their Lasers 'kissed' each others topsides on the approach to the mark.

This incident became a turning point in the series when Casey understood he had established his position by the rule book.

However Slingsby held a different opinion. Unfortunately for him the protest failed to go beyond the arbitration hearing resulting with a disqualification which gave Brendan Casey the 2005 Ronstan Sail Brisbane Trophy after both he and Slingsby shared the honours in the final two heats.

Brendan Casey would have preferred to have won the title on the course but Tom Slingsby who was a slightly superior sailor in terms of boat speed allowed Casey a small opportunity which was skillfully exploited with superior one design sailing tactics to win the prestigious trophy.

16 year old Klade Hauschildt scored a brilliant win in the Laser 4.7 class title.

Report: Ian Grant, Photo: www.livesaildie.com

2005 Euro Masters Series Overall Results

Apprentice

1	Lennart Cnossen	NED	7 pts
2	Cesar Sierhuis	NED	7 pts
3	Martijn Ozinga	NED	8 pts
4	Beat Heinz	SUI	9 pts
5	Andreas Maurer	GER	21 pts

Masters

1	Bart Meynendonckx	BEL	3 pts
2	Mauro Lentini	SUI	5 pts
3	Wolfgang Gerz	GER	8 pts
4	Luc Dumonceau	BEL	12 pts
5	Gilles Grenier	FRA	19 pts

Grand Masters

1	Derek Breitenstein	FIN	3 pts
2	Uwe Claasen	GER	9 pts
3	Jacky Nebrel	FRA	9 pts
3	Wolf Peter Niessen	GER	9 pts
5	Jaques Perret	SUI	10 pts

Radial Apprentice

1	Georges During	FRA	10 pts
2	Pieter van Laer	FRA	21 pts
3	Moritz Le Maire	GER	22 pts

Radial Masters

1	Alberto de Paoli Ambrosi	ITA	35 pts
2	Jose Tavares	POR	36 pts
3	Jean Jaques Poron	FRA	45 pts

Radial Grand Masters

1	Henk Wittenberg	NED	3 pts
2	Gerard de Roffignac	FRA	11 pts
3	Patrick Diebolt	FRA	22 pts
4	Paul de Vries	NED	24 pts
5	David Kiley	GBR	25 pts

Radial Great Grand Masters

1	Tomaso Ambrosi	SUI	3 pts
2	Heini Wellman	SUI	5 pts
2	Rene Bright	GER	5 pts
4	Bill Watson	GBR	10 pts
5	Gerard Jeannet	FRA	14 pts

Radial Women

1	Christelle Marsault	FRA	4 pts
2	Antonella Sabatini	SUI	9 pts
3	Claudine Tatibouet	FRA	15 pts
4	Lesley Hotchin	GBR	24 pts
5	Yvonne Malmsten	SWE	26 pts

LASER MASTERS 2005

Record Fleet For Laser Masters State Titles

12-13 November, 2005 Lake Macquarie, AUS

62 Standard rig and 47 Radial rig masters assembled for a November weekend at Wangi Sailing Club on Lake Macquarie in New South Wales, Australia. A month earlier a number of the competitors had been half way across the world at the Masters Worlds in Brasil. Although the 8 to 10 knot winds for the 4 races were a lot lighter than Brasil it did not make any difference to the apprentice and grand master winners at the world titles. Beyer had the older Bethwaite close by in every race except the third when Beyer was disqualified for breaking the start line. In that race Bethwaite could only manage his worst result - a fifth. Beyer took the overall title on the last race counting two wins and a second place.

In the Radial fleet former Olympic Yngling sailor, Kristen Kosmala, showed the men the way round counting the same places as Beyer.

Full results:

www.laser.asn.au/results_05_state_masters.htm



2006 EURO MASTERS SERIES DATES	25 - 28 May Enkhuisen NED	
19 - 22 January Antibes FRA	16 - 18 June Neuchâtel SUI	29 - 30 July FIN
17 - 19 March Calella de Palafrugell ESP	23 - 25 June Wolfgangsee AUT	4 - 6 August SWE
19 - 21 May Laignueglia ITA	7 - 9 July Plön GER	1 - 3 September Leça da Palmeira POR
20 - 21 May Kinrooi BEL	21 - 23 July Stokes Bay GBR	9 - 15 September Split CRO