

## South Australia 2010-11 Season report

While numbers in the SA fleet in general remained stable this year, entrants for the state titles was perhaps a little disappointing. We experimented with the format a bit this year, holding 4 heats over 1 weekend at Adelaide Sailing Club and the final 2 heats a few weeks later at Port Vincent.

The first day at Adelaide saw excellent racing in moderate breezes. Sweet Little Rock'n'Roller unfortunately lost her rig only a few minutes before the start of the first race due to a side stay failing. The event was captured on the on board video recorder strapped to the end of the boom and can be viewed on the website. The two races were short, but exciting with tight finishes.

Day 2 at Adelaide saw stronger winds. Orion had sustained tiller damage on the Saturday but didn't discover it until it was too late to fix. Powderburn's skipper was suffering from Swine flu and several other boats had not been able to sail on a Sunday. Alternative Pathway left the beach with the video recorder strapped to the crew and under the impression that at least 2 other boats were coming out. We patiently watched fireball after fireball emerge from behind the breakwater, and were finally reconciled to being the only starter when the starting gun went. We sailed around the course in around 20 knots of wind and finished the first race, then decided it was not so much fun on our own and headed in.

Most teams headed across to Port Vincent for what is traditionally an excellent social and sailing weekend. Tents were erected and a few bottles of all sorts of things consumed by sailors and spouses alike. Heat 5 on the Saturday afternoon was an epic event, lasting well over 2 hours in light fickle wind. Powerburn got the jump on Alternative Pathway, although was given a scare when AP caught up several hundred metres in one leg, only to lose it again by the top mark! Eventually, everyone finished and headed in to the yacht club for an excellent meal, as always at PVSC. Heat 6 on Sunday morning started in around 25 knots. Only 3 boats ventured out, but no-one finished in the treacherous conditions.

Final placings for the State Titles this year were:

1. Alternative Pathway, Dave Gordon and Kathryn Burdon
2. Orion, Jake Gilbertson and Brigid Brown
3. Powderburn, Debbie Colebatch and Daniel Adams

Winner on handicap was Bad Joker, Adrian Adams and Douglas Clarke

Given the poor number of starters this year, we will be re-assessing the format of the titles to encourage more entrants and looking to get the 3 boats based as Christie's Beach Yacht Club more involved in association events.