

Carnivore State 125 Champion

Andrew Stanley

Peter and Caleb Henderson sailing Carnivore have been again crowned SA State 125 Champions after a fantastic regatta at Tumby Bay over the weekend.

Festivities started on Friday night with an Invitational non-championship race and with a 20 knot sea breeze blowing most competitors elected not to risk their equipment. Only three boats took to the water and Carnivore quickly returned to the shore after sampling conditions on the sea. That left Chris Derrick and Alex Jackson from Largs Bay Sailing Club sailing Spinout to do battle with Tumby sailor Andrew Stanley in Rubidium who had enlisted another talented Largs Bay sailor in Nicholas Neale to crew in the heavy conditions.

Rubidium quickly established a significant lead but a broken gooseneck on the final run put an end to their race and left the skipper with some repairs to do before the championship proper. The junior sailors in Spinout showed plenty of grit to complete the course and take victory.

Much milder 5-10 knot south-easterlies greeted the fleet for the start of the Championship on Saturday morning. Racing got underway under the direction of Richard Davidson and Dean Hopping, and Mark Lewis and Sebastian Trenberth in Voodoo made the best start rounding the first mark in the lead. Carnivore quickly asserted their dominance though sailing away to take line and handicap honours.

Heat Two again saw Carnivore take line honours. They were followed by Chris and Caleb Trenberth in Smorstok with the Largs boys in Spinout slipping into third position. The veterans Rob Ranford and Les Fathers in How Bizarre took handicap honours.

Heat Three on Saturday afternoon and Heat Four on Sunday morning produced very similar results with Carnivore leading home Voodoo and Andrew and Bayden Stanley in Rubidium showing improved form to take third place in both races. Alysha and Roy Gossink sailing Fromstok took out both races on handicap.

The wind picked up to 15 knots for the final race and the officials set a longer course which proved a little challenging for the leading boats. Rubidium managed to beat Carnivore to the first mark but the rest of the fleet and the spectator craft were then entertained by the two leading boat searching in vain for the wing mark on the lengthened course. Eventually they sighted the elusive mark but the fleet had made up plenty of ground while they searched. Carnivore finished with a fifth victory and Voodoo wrapped up second position overall with another second while Smorstok secured third overall with a third place finish.

Kym Wright sailing with his third crew for the weekend, Zoey Fordham, in Slippery When Wet was the big improver getting home in fourth place. Behind them an intense battle for fourth position overall was going on between Spinout and Rubidium who went into the final heat locked on points. They were in close proximity all race with Rubidium eventually prevailing.

The result was sufficient though to win Spinout the Junior Champion Trophy. They beat Whyalla juniors Rhys Sudholz and Tamika Jeffery in Don't Panic who finished the regatta in a credible seventh position.

Tim Ashman and Nigel King in Spectrum also showed five races in a short time frame can be great for your form taking out handicap honours by over 3 minutes in the final heat.

Overall Handicap winner was the daughter/father combination of Alysha and Roy Gossink in Fromstok. Alysha has won this trophy the previous two years as a crew and this year she had her name engraved as a skipper.

The performance of the family crews was a highlight of the weekend. Three father/son combinations competed and all finished in the top four. This is one of the great attractions of the 125 class.

Next week sailing returns to its normal format at Tumby Bay. New sailors are always welcome and there are plenty of boats available for use and experienced sailors willing and able to assist newcomers.