

The JA Linacre Memorial Trophy for the 2025 Victorian State Titles

The JA Linacre Memorial Trophy for the 2025 Victorian State Titles was held at Royal Brighton Yacht Club on 29-30 March as part of their “Empty the Marina” Regatta which celebrated the RBYC’s 150th Anniversary. More than 80 yachts competed with three divisions of keel boats then Etchells, Dragons, VX One Sports Boats (who also had their State Titles), Jubilees and Lasers.

Eight Jubilees entered the regatta but only seven competed. Sadley Maree Wilson and Geoff Gadsden who had brought their recently restored J14 “Eloka” up from Sorrento, only to break a jib halyard while heading out to the start for Race 1.

The leisurely 11.30am start was preceded by anxious crews watching the weather build. The South Easterly blew at a reasonably constant 18-20 knots whipping up a chop that frequently flooded over bows and kept the pumps working. The races were two laps of a windward/leeward course with a gate at the bottom mark. Three races were scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, but the Race Officer predicted that Sunday could be a blow out (which it was) and that he would run four races on the Saturday to ensure a series.

The wind and waves made for some great downwind sailing. Steve Wright recorded J115 “Renaissance” travelling at 8.2 knots while surfing down a wave. In one race, the VX Sports Boats sailed on our course and that made for some interesting maneuvers by yachts in both fleets when the extreme closing speeds of the VXs brought them up out of nowhere into the middle of the Jubilees as they negotiated either of the bottom marks. There was no time for cries of “Starboard” or calls for “Room”, instead everyone did the best they could. There were no protests.

The Jubilee races were “all clear” starts and there were no incidents on the water. Races 1 and 2 commenced in the heaviest weather which stabilized then backed off but only slightly, for Races 3 and 4. Michael Morrow and Siobhan Dent in J130 “Balcombe Bay” lead the way, scoring wins in the first three races and a second in Race four. Steve Wright and crew in J115 “Renaissance” had to sit out the first race but scored well in the following three to take out second place. The Cantwell crew combined youth and experience that drew much admiration from everyone. Tate and Fred, supported by dad Michael, sailed consistently to take out third place.

Overall racing was close with only minutes and seconds across the fleet. Your association secretary was heard to say that it was the best days racing he has had in his thirty years on the water (and we came last).

Finally, the JYAA added to the RBYC celebrations by displaying the fully restored J1 “Freydis” on the forecourt of the clubhouse over the weekend. Freydis was a real attraction fondly remembered by old sailors and admired by new. It was the efforts of a few volunteers and the investment for both RBYC and JYAA funds plus the donation of critical parts by Ronstan Australia that made this restoration a reality.

Pl	Name	Boat	Sail Num	Club	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	Total	Net
1	Michael Morrow	Balcombe Bay	J130	Ballarat YC	1	1	1	2	5	5
2	Steve Wright	Renaissance	J115	Cronulla YC	7	3	2	1	13	13
3	Tate Cantwell	Mudlark	J131	Sorrento SCBC	2	4	5	4	15	15
4	Christopher Pulham	Wataworrie	J121	Albert Park YC	4	2	3	7	16	16
5	Russell Hawkes	Redleg	J118	Ballarat YC	3	5	4	6	18	18
6	Bob McDonald	Jubilant	J54	Sorrento SCBC	6	7	6	3	22	22
7	Leonie Crosbie	Asanvari	J132	Ballarat YC	5	6	7	5	23	23
8	Maree Wilson	Elokah	J14	Sorrento SCBC	10 DNC	9 DNC	9 DNC	9 DNC	37	37