

Handicap Racing – Mawson Lakes – Tuesday 13th March at 3pm

Our first organised handicap racing event ever in SA, and with 10 boats turning up it went off really well. Thanks for such a great showing everyone. The wind was 3-12 knots from primarily the south-east, and the fleet started with a mix of A and B rigs but very quickly changed to all A rigs. The gusts generally got stronger during the day, and in Race 4 all of us, including the winner Bob Whitehead, nosedived for much of the downwind leg. Peter Trenorden had a wretched day with lack of range with his transmitter and consequently found the windy patches difficult. Six out of the ten competitors won a race, which showed that the handicapping system was working reasonably well. It was great to see Alex Hayter and Kym Stringer, both new boat owners up amongst the winners. Alex (who is a sailmaker at Aleygator Sails) has been responsible for the 'Aleygatorisation' of the SA fleet, where he has generously supervised many of us making spare A and B sails, which we use only for club and handicap racing.

Overall it was a really fun day with tough sailing conditions. An area for improvement for the fleet is ensuring we get away promptly on our designated handicap times. Too often boats were in irons at the start line or colliding with other boats. This only made my job and Jurgen's job easier, as we often started with very little actual handicap. This sort of improvement will come with practice as this was only our first handicap event. Finally, well done to Reg Cunningham and Stewart Ross for coming out and having a go in such trying conditions and many thanks to Mark Easton for being PRO on the day and to our club president Dean Bonnett for setting the course and for operating the recovery boat.



Don Turnbull AUS55 together with the Aleygator rigs of Alex Hayter 312 and Adrian Heard 119. Photo – Gerry Giebel

Race No.

	Skipper	Sail #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
P	Curtis	44								
D	Turnbull	55	8	4	4	2	8	7	1	2
L	Sawyer	171								
J	Berry	256	7	2	7	6	7	3	7	7
A	Heard	192	2	1	1	4	4	2	2	6
J	Nieuwen	148								
M	Easton	165								
S	Ross	254	6	7	8	8	10	10	DNF	DNS
B	Whitehead	259	5	6	2	1	2	5	3	5
J	Luther	127	3	3	5	3	1	4	5	3
S	Mitchell	245								
P	Trenorden	7	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	DNS
R	Cunningham	265	4	8	6	7	6	8	4	DNS
A	Hayter	312	10	5	3	5	5	1	8	4
K	Stringer	39	1	9	DNF	DNS	3	6	6	1

NB. I have not included overall placings as this was not the point of the day's sailing. Also Race 2 is missing (yes, there were 9 races), because of my difficulty in reading the results, so my apologies to whoever won that race!!