

## SAP 505 World Sailing Championships Wrap



*'Kevin Taugher and Jon Bell head upwind with the race leaders just around the top mark in Race 9 of the 2007 SAP 505 World Championships' by [Sail-world.com](http://Sail-world.com)*

Whilst the first place had been decided, there was a big battle set to decide the minor placings in the last race at Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club in Adelaide. There were just two points between second and fourth.

The day dawned hot and the locals suggested we wouldn't get a breeze, but the race committee put us out there and to their credit we got a good days racing. Starting in a very light sea breeze and building to wiring conditions by the end.

The race winners were Jens Findel and Johannes Tellen. They sailed in to an all the way lead, enjoying the light conditions and glad to have the Super Danes sitting on the beach. Their win helped their overall result, jumping them to 7th overall.

For the minor placings, Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson lost second and fell to 5th. They had won the pre worlds and looked to be untouchable, but being a bigger crew, the lighter winds hurt. Their two worst results were in the last two races, when the wind was at its lightest.

Moving up was Howie Hamlin and Fritz Lanzinger, they scored second on the day and second overall. Howie has won second seven times now and in his acceptance speech last night, he said 'sometimes I am real disappointed to win second, some years I am ecstatic. This year I am ecstatic. It has been the best year of my life with the 18, winning the 14 Worlds and now second here, it's a mighty achievement'.

Also moving up was Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh. The local lads had a good final race, with a seventh and placed third overall. A result, they too were ecstatic with. The crowd went nuts when they came up, because many realised how much work Sandy had put into the event on the administration side as well as trying to race. A difficult thing to do.

It was a great regatta. Everybody enjoyed the event and had a great time. The response of the overseas competitors to Adelaide and the generosity of the Australian people were noted throughout the night in the speeches and private conversations. So many convinced that we live in paradise here and they are right. The next Worlds are in Palermo in Italy, October 2008.

By Jordan Spencer, Sat 3 Feb 2007

## **Findel wins SAP 505 Race 9**

Light winds for the final race, the 2007 World Champions Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek of Denmark have chosen not to race, having been celebrating into the pre-dawn hours. The battle today is for second and third.

The wind is coming from the south west again. The first leg is set to 215; the wind is blowing at 5-6 knots.

At the first mark, Jens Findel (GER) is two lengths ahead of Helen Fischer (GER), another length back to Howie Hamlin (USA).

Second on pointscore going into this race was Mike Martin, his black boat is not in the top 20. Hamlin was just a point behind and he looks to be in control.

Down the run, the breeze is still very light, only six knots, only the lightweight German women's crew is on the wire. At the bottom mark, Hamlin has closed up on Fischer, with Kevin Taugher (USA) fourth, two boat lengths back.

Up the beat for the second time, Hamlin found a little shift and moved into second place, just a length ahead of Fischer.

Ian Pinnell (GBR) is currently fifth but Sandy Higgins (AIS/SA) is only a few places behind, so should keep Pinnell at bay on the overall points.

Round the wing mark after the shy reach, Findel has opened up a lead of over a minute to Hamlin with Fischer third. Pinnell is fifth and Higgins ninth.

Back at the leeward mark and the way back up the beat, Hamlin has closed up on Findel, four boat lengths in it now.

At the top mark for the third time Hamlin has almost caught Findel. Fischer is still third, the light conditions helping the girls, but Taugher is closing. Down the run again, Hamlin is just a single boat length behind Findel and Fischer has almost caught the pair.

The wind was well up as the boats sailed down the last run, gusting to 12 knots, with the boats behind bringing the breeze down with them, the fleet has closed up.

Round the mark and up to the finish of the final race in the 62nd International 505 Worlds. The breeze is staying in and crews are on the wire. Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA) is seventh and should have third place overall sewn up ahead of Pinnell.

Jens Findel (GER) gets the gun, ahead of Howie Hamlin (USA), two boat lengths back. Third is Kevin Taugher. (USA).

Behind them a couple of boats, look to have done well on the final beat, over on the Brighton shore.

## **Super Danes win SAP 505 Worlds**

Day 5, a beautiful day, offshore at South Australia's Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club, a little warm for the visitors and a little light for the Aussies, but it was perfect for the Danes.

Two races were held in a fairly light sea breeze and the Super Danes, Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek excelled.

Race 7 started in about 8-10kn and built slightly as the race went on. Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson were gate boat and started on a port tack lift, which swung right four minutes later, just as they were released from gate boat duties. From there, they crossed the fleet and had an easy lay to the top mark and an all the way victory. Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh, the local boys sailing Hawaii 50 and using a different mainsail, sailed brilliantly to work through the field and pull second place. Jan and Morten were 16th at the first mark, but were superior in all legs, managing to move up to fifth by the finish.

Race 8 was perhaps consistently stronger, but no windier than 12kn. After the gains made to the right in the previous race, a large part of the fleet favoured a late start for the second race, to the right, yet most of the guns picked an early to middle start and it was the right call. The boats that worked the middle left early popped out in the lead at the top mark.

Leading the pack were the Super Danes. These guys have just not made a mistake this regatta. They have been sailing together for a while and have done 10 of the last 12 Worlds, nearly always in the top 10, but have never even won a Worlds heat before.

A jinx they have well and truly broken now, at what many are saying has been the toughest, (to win) 505 Worlds in a while. Michael Quirk and Geoff Lange from Australia had their best race of the series to place second and Howie Hamlin and Fritz Lanzinger were third.

Today's performances mean that the Super Danes cannot be beaten and they don't have to sail the last race, but also, there is a ding dong battle for second, with two points separating three boats. Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson of the US are second, Howie Hamlin and Fritz Lanzinger of the US are third and local boat Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh are fourth.

One race remains. The forecast is the same as today, so it seems likely we will have another light sea breeze.

### **Saugmann/Ramsbaek win Race 8 and SAP 505 World Championship**

Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek (DEN) have won Race 8 and are in an unbeatable position for the 2007 SAP World Championship with one race left to sail.

The second last race in the 2007 SAP 505 Worlds started this afternoon in a gentle 6-8 knot south westerly, at a heading of 215, the shorter course 2 was signalled.

The gate boat was Queenslander Kevin Cameron who was required to run the line on port tack. If the right hand side of the course was favoured, he would be well placed at the top mark, otherwise not. Not was the answer, Cameron was 18th at the top mark.

Leading the fleet were the Super Danes, already leading the series, Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek (DEN) who were two lengths ahead of Howie Hamlin (USA), the 2007 Australian 505 champion Michael Quirk, with Malcolm Higgins (AUS) a few seconds back.

Race 5 winner Ebbe Rosen (SWE) was sixth, just a second ahead of Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA). Hasso Plattner (GER) was 15th and was fast to hoist his SAP spinnaker.

At the bottom mark, Michael Quirk had sailed through Hamlin into second place. Hamlin was fighting to stay ahead of Martin Goerge (GER).

At the top mark for the second time Saugmann led from Quirk, who was not losing contact, again right on his stern.

Hamlin was third, about three boat lengths back. Down the run for the second time, the breeze was steady around 8-10 knots, still from 215, no changes in the top five. This might be Mal Higgins, (Sandy's older brother) best ever race, he is steady in fourth, but only a length ahead of Rosen.

Stamping their authority on the 2007 World Championship Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek (DEN) got the gun in race 8. They finished ahead of Michael Quirk (AUS), Howie Hamlin (USA), Ebbe Rosen (SWE) and Ian Pinnell (GBR).

The 2005 Australian 505 champion Phil Gray (AUS) looks to have finished sixth ahead of Mal Higgins (AUS/SA) with Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA) next.

In winning Race 8, Saugmann and Ramsbaek have won the 2007 World Championship with a race to spare. The main interest in tomorrow's final race will be for the other podium places, with three crews covered by just two points, and with a fourth easily able to stage an upset.

### **Martin wins SAP 505 Worlds Race 7**

Blue sky, crystal clear, flat water with 7-8 knots of breeze for Race 7 of the SAP International 505 Worlds sailing out of the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club.

At the top mark, Mike Martin (USA) was first to hoist, with a six boat length lead ahead of Doug Hagan (USA). Third, right on his transom was Kevin Cameron with Robin Duessen (AUS/SA) fourth. Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA) was sixth ahead of Helen Fischer (GER) close behind. Britisher Ian Pinnell was 12th, Championship leader Jan Saugmann was buried in 16th place.

Down the run, Sandy Higgins flew into second place behind Martin, followed by Hagan, Fischer and Boris Herrmann (GER). Saugmann is coming through the fleet, he picked up six places by the bottom mark and is now 10th.

Pinnell has moved up to 11th. Howie Hamlin (USA) moved from 15th to 12th.

Breeze at 8-9 knots on the way to a shy reach to the wing mark, the crews are not trapezing. Martin has lost a couple of lengths of his big lead, Higgins and Hagan have closed. No changes in the lead group, with Helen Fischer seventh.

On the reach back to the bottom mark, the crews are on the wire. Higgins gained 30 seconds on the two wings, to round four lengths behind Martin.

The breeze was steady, swinging back and forward, no more than five or so degrees. The pressure increasing a knot or two. The top three placings did not change for the balance of the race and Martin got the gun, three lengths ahead of Higgins. Hagan was another boat length back in third place. Saugmann looks like he finished fifth, yet to be confirmed.

### **SAP 505 World Championships Day 4**

The fourth day of the 2007 World Championship being sailed out of Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club, in Adelaide, South Australia. Race 6 and the forecast was to be a 15-20kn sea breeze.

The morning dawned with a strong 'gully wind', a 15kn Sou' Easter and a lot of cloud. Normally it will bend to the South West and turn into a sea breeze. The cloud was a warning sign, but when it swung to the nor' East, we knew we were in trouble.

You never get a good sea breeze after a Northerly. Before the race start, it had bent back to the South easter by the time we started; we were heading into a North Wester. There was going to be trouble ahead.

Pressure wise, it was light, 5-8 knots occasionally hitting 10 knots. And there were, as you would expect a lot of shifts. There were some massive positional movements throughout the field, with the field being both compressed several times during the race and then spread on the last beat.

The winner was again Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek from Denmark, but they had to work hard to do it, digging themselves out from 14th at the first mark.

Their win gives them an 11 point lead at the front of the field. Howie Hamlin and Fritz Lanzinger pulled second after being ninth at the first mark and Boris Herrmann and Julien Kleiner picked up third place.

Beyond that there were some huge horror stories. There were plenty of shifts during the race, with the race committee moving the top mark at every bottom mark rounding.

But it was the last beat that was the doozy. The wind had weakened and had bent a little to the left, but there was slightly more pressure to the right and direction was WSW. However as the leaders approached the finish, the wind died and a south easter formed on the shore.

The first two boats crept over the line, and then we had boats coming from the right in a Westerly and boats running from the left with their kites up. In the end the Sou' Easter kicked in, but a lot of damage was done.

Tomorrow, there are two races and the forecast is again for a 15-20kn sea breeze. We can only hope.

### **Super Danes win SAP International 505 Worlds Race 6**

Sea breeze 10-15 knots for this afternoon's Race 6 start at the 2007 SAP 505 Worlds, but the breeze dropped as the race progressed.

The Super Dane Jan Saugmann leads the regatta still after consolidating in the light breezes today. He won at 2006 Kiel Week in similar conditions.

Going into today, Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek of Denmark had a single point lead over Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson (USA). In third place, four points back, was Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh of Australia, who are sailing out of their home club.

The big fleet of almost 90 boats are well offshore, 2.3 miles from the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club south of Adelaide, South Australia. It was expected that they would be sailing back towards the shore, as the early wind was initially from the south east. It has now swung to the south west they are sailing even further offshore. There was patchy blue sky early and it seemed the cloud was burning off, but the cloud has come back in and it's generally overcast.

The wind was unstable early but has now settled and has been building from the south west. It has been a clean start, to a mark at 255 with the gate 'rabbit' Queenslander Phil Gray released after running across the fleet on port, but it seems most of the fleet has stayed left.

Christian Kellner (GER) led the fleet at the top mark, a boat length back was Kevin Taugher (USA) with local sailor Sandy Higgins overlapped. These boats came in from the port layline gaining, as the breeze at the top mark was more around 260. Martin Goerge (GER) was wide on the mark next, ahead of Boris Herrmann (GER).

Howie Hamlin (USA) was eighth, with regatta leader Jan Saugmann (DEN) 14th, Mike Martin 15th and Adrian Finglas 18th.

As the fleet ran down towards the bottom gate, a horn and course board were signalling a course change to 245.

The breeze had dropped down to 8-10 knots.

Kevin Taugher led around the bottom mark, but the big move was Saugmann who gained eight places down the run.

Up the beat for the second time, Saugmann found a large shift, it might be a regatta winner, he rounded five boat lengths ahead of Taugher, with Herrmann third. Doug Hagan (USA) moved from seventh last lap to fourth the second time. Sandy Higgins had slipped back to fifth, as the fleet spread, he was 2.5 mins behind the leader.

The breeze had settled around 7-8 knots, the cloud has burnt off, enough pressure for the crews to trapeze but not at full stretch. A lovely day on the water.

Howie Hamlin (USA) was ninth at the top mark, but he made big gains on the shy reach, the two leaders were unchanged but Hamlin was third. At the bottom mark, Saugmann was still five lengths ahead of Taugher, but Hamlin was only another boat length back. Then there are two boat lengths to Herrmann (GER), then another length to Jens Findel (GER). Britisher Ian Pinnell was seventh and Mike Martin (USA) eighth.

At the top mark for the third time Saugmann (DEN) is almost a minute ahead of Hamlin (USA) with Herrmann (GER) third, two boat lengths back. Findel (GER) is now fifth and the early race leader Taugher (USA) is now seventh, less than two boat lengths ahead of Martin (USA).

Saugmann is extending his lead over Hamlin by more than a minute on the next mark. Herrmann is still in third position dropping back another few lengths. As the breeze softens the next few places remain the same but the distances between them are extending.

On the final beat (shortened) now, the wind is around six knots, the crews are no longer trapezing.

Saugmann has won, the top three unchanged.

The wind kept dropping down to about two knots. After the first 10 or so boats crossed the line, the wind swung so much that a large number of boats came up the beat under spinnaker.

## SAP 505 World's Day 3 – Lake Conditions



*'Ebbe Rosen and Olle Wenrup (SWE, the winners of Race 5 just after crossing the finish line in the 2007 SAP 505 Worlds, Day 3,' by [Sail-world.com](http://Sail-world.com)*

A two race day in non-Australian conditions is the best way to describe the day 3 action at the 2007 SAP International 505 World Championship yesterday.

Adelaide is one of the few places in the World to experience days without tidal movement, or a 'dodge tide' as it is called, and day 3 racing was one of those days. Generally, a flooding tide helps the sea breeze build, by bringing cold water up the Gulf, but with no tidal movement, the sea breeze hardly got moving. So we sailed in light wind flat water conditions more suited to a European or US lake than the Australian Southern Ocean, and as you would expect, it was those more accustomed to these conditions who shone.

The first race, race four was won by Jan Saugmann and Morten Ramsbaek of Denmark. Affectionately known as the Super Danes, these guys where on the right side of a big right hand shift after the start and were second around the top mark behind Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson, by the bottom mark, they were in the lead and never headed. Both the Danish and US boats had great speed in the light conditions, but amazing height. Howie Hamlin and Fritz Lanzinger sailed a great race, moving from eight at the first mark to third at the finish.

The second race, race five was more of the same conditions wise and performance wise. This time there was no big shift from the right, rather a lot of small shifts and a late left bend on the last work. Still off the start, the right side of the course was favoured, as the gate boat with Ebbe Rosen and Olle Wenrup were second around the first mark, behind Queenslanders Kevin Cameron and Jeremy Manders.

Rosen and Wenrup, just like the Super Danes in the first race, moved into first by the bottom mark and were never headed. Second was the French team of Bertrand Loyal and Laurent Nevo, backing up from their sixth in the first race of the day, making them the second best performer after the Super Danes, Saugmann and Ramsbaek who climbed to third in the second race.

The sailors now have a day's break, before resuming on Wednesday. There are four more races remaining in the regatta and after one drop, Saugmann and Ramsbaek lead the regatta from Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson, and locals Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh in third.

## **Sweden wins SAP International 505 Race 5**

SAP International 505 Race 5 underway, conditions have continued light all afternoon. The first leg was set to 195 and the wind has been around 8-10 knots.

Sweden's Ebbe Rosen having been 10th in Race 4, was 'the gate **rabbit**', being required to start on port. However he found a nice shift and crossed the fleet.

Up the first beat, Mike Martin (USA) and Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA) worked the middle of the course while out on the right, boats made gains and Queensland's Kevin Cameron lead by a boat length at the top mark, ahead of Rosen. In third place was Bertrand Loyal (FRA) ahead of Neal Fowler (USA) and last race winner Jan Saugmann from Denmark.

Marginal conditions for trapezing on the first leg. The light conditions have certainly mixed up the fleet and anyone who was not on the right is suffering. Martin rounded ninth and Higgins 11th.

Down the run Rosen made a big gain, he picked up around six boat lengths and led Loyal ahead of Cameron. Rosen did not extend up the beat, he was still only two boat lengths ahead of Cameron with Loyal third. Saugmann has come into contention again, into fourth, four boat lengths back.

It was a procession on the shy reach out to the wing mark, with no changes in the top half dozen boats, either then or back to the next mark. However Rosen has extended his lead to at least six boat lengths. Saugmann was closing on Loyal and had the chance to get through him into third, making a great day for him. Mike Martin was hanging on in about 10th place. Again the right paid.

The conditions built as the race progressed. Rosen extended to 45 seconds at the bottom mark on Cameron, with Loyal third. Rosen won by almost two minutes from Loyal with the Dane, Saugmann third. Cameron fell back to fourth place and Herman to fifth.

## **Denmark wins Race 4 SAP 505 Worlds**

Sunshine on St Vincents Gulf, as the 90 boat 505 fleet started in Race 4 of the 2007 SAP International 505 Worlds.

With two races today, the regatta will reach the half way mark.

If the pundits are right Howie Hamlin (USA) and Chris Nicholson (AUS) should be amongst the leaders if the weather stays light today, in conditions which might not suit Mike Martin and Nick Adamson.

The sea breeze was 8-12 knots from the south west and the first leg was only 0.9 nm. Waves were less than 0.2 metres. The early cloud had burnt off as the competitors started to race.

Up the first leg Bill Cuneo (AUS/QLD) was an early leader from Kevin Taugher (USA), ahead of Damian Carey (AUS/SA) and Phil Gray (AUS/QLD).

Round the top mark, Mike Martin was already proving the pundits wrong and he was in first place.

Danish 505 veteran Jan Saugmann was second to hoist his kite, three boat lengths later. Both these sailors had been on the right, which seemed favoured.

The SAP 505 Worlds sponsor Hasso Plattner (GER) was a further boat length back, ahead of Bertrand Loyal (FRA) then Martin Goerge (GER), Howie Hamlin (USA) and Ian Pinnell (GBR). Robin Deussen (AUS/SA) led Adrian Flnglas (AUS/QLD).



Series co-leader Nick Adamson was nineteen round the mark, and Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA) was nowhere in sight.

At the bottom of the run Saugmann had slipped into the lead, two lengths ahead of Martin, Plattner was still third.

Howie Hamlin had begun the second work in sixth place. The pack from sixth to 20th was crowded into less than six boat lengths and there was action aplenty.

Mal Higgins (AUS/SA) seemed to be in the groove and was sweeping through the bunch.

The breeze was dropping down to a constant eight knots and the sky was almost all azure blue, with most of the fleet favouring the right again.

At the next windward mark, Saugmann was still leading ahead of Martin, but Plattner had slipped to fifth. At the wing mark, Goerge was still third and Hamlin was fourth. At the bottom mark again, Martin had closed up by a length on the leader and up the next run, the Britisher Pinnell passed Plattner.

At the end of the final run, Saugmann and his long time crew Morten Ramsbaek, had powered away by another two lengths and had a 53 second buffer, with a long beat to go to the finish. Martin was a similar distance ahead of Hamlin, with Goerge fourth. Plattner had slipped to eighth and the first Australian crew Adrian Finglas was in nine overall.

Up the final work, the breeze was still around eight knots. There were no changes amongst the leaders, but Robin Deussen managed to climb past Finglas to finish in about eleventh place.

Saugmann won 2006 Kiel Week in light conditions, he will be a threat if the weather stays like this.

The soft conditions are not suiting the Australian contingent.

These positions are observed only and unofficial. Protests, if any may change these placings.

## **Day 2 Report SAP 505 World Championships**

Another gloomy day in Adelaide. Winds still from the south and low clouds. Days like these generally mean big pressure and direction changes in the wind at Brighton and that's what we saw. Generally it was 13-18kn, but occasionally it was above and occasionally it was below.

It was only one race today and it really was a great days sailing, particularly for South Australian's Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh. They won their second heat of the Worlds after some brilliant sailing.

Off the start, it looked like the left was going to pay, but eventually the boats from the right lead around the top mark. Bill Cuneo and John Warlow led first, but there were a pile of boats there. It was interesting seeing the Nicholsons and how quickly they have re-acquainted themselves with the 505. They are certainly formidable sailors. Downhill though, Sandy and Marshy were on fire. They were clearly the fastest, but upwind they also sailed very smart.

It was an easy day to get hurt today with big shifts and plenty of boats that were at the front early ended up a long way back after going the wrong way. That being said, the fleet is tightly packed, one mistake can cost you 5-10 boats instantly.

Regardless of the shifts though, two boats have been very consistent. Nick Adamson and Steve Bourdow

from the US and Mike Holt and Carl Smit also of the US are tied for the lead. Both boats have posted a second, third and fourth and don't look like making any mistakes.

Race 4 and 5 looks like it will be more of the same for the competitors wind wise, though if the cloud burns off early, there could be a greater thermal effect and therefore, a little more stable directionally. Monday night also sees the return of the games night at the Worlds, with our visitors sure to be treated to some 'unique' local games.

### **Australians 1,2 in SAP 505 Worlds Race 3**

Today's third race in the 2007 SAP International 505 World titles is being sailed out of Brighton and Redcliff Yacht Club, south of Adelaide city in South Australia.

Overcast with rain showers this morning, the wind built steadily during the morning and an hour before the start it was gusting to 18 knots, with steady drizzling rain.

Once again today the Championship race officials, both on the water, at the marks and on 'The Bridge' at the Clubhouse will be combining to provide live mark roundings for the front of the fleet, which will be posted during the race to the event site [www.505worlds2007.com](http://www.505worlds2007.com)

The wind eased just ahead of the start time, blowing around 12-14 knots. Sea conditions were much flatter than yesterday with waves around 0.5 metres. The first leg was set at 170 degrees, with the first leg length 1.2 miles.

Coming up towards the top mark, Mike Martin's (USA) Black Boat was near the lead, along with Mike Holt (USA) The wind had lifted to 15-16 knots and the seas were larger at the top mark, around 0.75 metres. The rain showers continued.

At the top mark for the first time, Queenslander Bill Cuneo just led from Mike Martin (USA) with Nick Adamson (USA) about three boat lengths back. In fourth place was Doug Hagan (USA/AUS), ahead of Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA), then another boat length to Jens Findel (GER). Then Jeff Robinson, Kevin Taugher (USA), overlapped by Chris Nicholson (AUS/NSW) and Mike Holt (USA) another two boat lengths behind.

The boats surfed down the run at serious speed. Cuneo held onto the lead.. just, from Martin, then there was a big gap of six-eight boat lengths back to Nick Adamson, with Doug Hagan another two boat lengths back. Then two more boat lengths to local Sandy Higgins, Jeff Robinson had fallen back to ninth. Sandy Higgins seemed to be moving steadily through the fleet.

Changes after the shy reach at the wing mark; South Australian Sandy Higgins was just in front of Chris Nicholson, who sailed a blinder across the reach. Cuneo was third, so it was Australia 1-2-3. It was still generally overcast but there were patches of sunlight and the wind was easing, 12-15 knots swinging a little right.

At the next mark the top four were unchanged, but Martin has slipped behind Taugher. At Mark 5, Higgins had stretched his lead to two lengths from Nicholson, and then there was a three boat length gap to Cuneo.

Adamson was back now another six lengths behind Cuneo, the top three seemed to be in their own race.

Higgins and Nicholson worked the shifts up the middle of the beat but Adamson found a private shift and reached the starboard lay line inside Cuneo.

At the bottom mark again, Higgins Hawaii Five O was five-six lengths ahead of Chris Nicholson and brother Darren, with Nick Adamson almost a minute back, four lengths ahead of Cuneo, then Holt.

Just when we thought it was over, Nicholson rounded just ahead of Higgins, with Adamson almost two minutes back. It seemed Cuneo had a problem, he lost almost 30 seconds on that leg and fell back to 10th. Holt was fourth.

The wind was building gradually from the 10-12 knots of the previous leg.

It was a match race up the long final beat to the gun, the two crews threw tack after tack, but finally there was just three seconds in it, Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh won by from triple 505 World Champion Chris Nicholson and his brother Darren (NSW) with American Nick Adamson and crew Steve Bourdow, third.

A reminder that these results are unofficial and we not know what protests if any, might affect the onwater outcome.

### **SAP 505's Worlds - Tough Day at the Office**

After a cold front moved through on Friday, day 1 of the 2007 Adelaide Worlds dawned cooler and windy. It was a tough day at the office for the participants. The strong pressure made it a day for the big hitters in the high wind stakes.

In the first race, we saw a typical Brighton southerly, with big pressure and direction changes. There were gusts well in excess of 25kn, with most of the race sailed in the 20+kn range. The water was lumpy as well, with some steep waves causing all sorts of problems for the visitors and many of the locals.

It was a race for the locals, with Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh (AUS/SA) winning the first heat of the Worlds at their home club.

The big guys Adamson and Bourdow (USA), Pinnell (GBR) and Hunt (USA), and Holt and Smit (USA) were all fighting at the front. The Nicholsons were there as well, but managed to swim, as did many, many of the competitors. For the real gun boat in the big winds, Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson (USA), well they blew up their pole launcher cleat, which made for a difficult first race.

Higgins and Marsh's win certainly wasn't boat speed. They were far more aggressive down wind. Sandy is one of the best boat handling helmsmen around, (if not the best) and that allowed them to push deeper and harder downhill.

At the end of the race, the tough conditions meant the leaders had an hour wait before the start of the second race, as many of the back markers had been lapped.

By the time the second race started, we had been on the water for nearly four hours in extreme conditions and then the race committee lengthened the course. It all seemed like a bad joke, unfortunately nobody was laughing.

For the second race the pressure had stabilised. The shifts were smaller and the maximum gusts were less intense. Martin and Nelson had also fixed their cleat problem and set about destroying the field.

By this stage tiredness had crept in and there were plenty of mistakes being made.

There were a few broken masts and plenty of bruised bodies. Martin and Nelson didn't have it all their way from the start though, Adamson from the US and Findel from Germany had lead around the top mark first, but the result was inevitable.

Race 1 winners Higgins and Marsh had another good result, to be one of the most consistent on the day,

but the two most consistent boats were Adamson and Bourdow of the US and Holt and Smit also from the US.

### **Mike Martin wins SAP 505 Worlds Race 2**

The second race in the 2007 505 World Championship at Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club started in winds of 12-15 knots. The course area, about a mile and a half off the beach, slightly north of the Club up towards Glenelg. Heading 190, first leg length 1.2 miles.

Tough for helmsman in the sloppy seaway, but Queenslander Bill Cuneo was away early, ahead of Britisher Rob Napier and NSW sailor Bob Fussell.

At the top mark it was Nick Adamson (USA) by a length from Jens Findel (GER), just ahead of South Australian Michael Thomson with Queensland's Adrian Finglas fourth, then there was a three boat length gap back to Kevin Taugher (USA), a length ahead of Terry Scutcher (GBR), then Mike Martin's Black Boat (USA).

Disaster in this tight, one design racing for Bill Cuneo who touched the top mark and lost a lot of places doing his 720.

Down the run Adamson and Findel held their positions, but Mike Martin powered into third place. Thompson, the local fell back just 14 seconds and went from third to sixth in a blink. Sandy Higgins climbed from 10th to seventh and was only 50 seconds off the lead.

Up the second work Mike Martin carved a mighty 40 seconds out of Adamson's lead to be first around the mark, two lengths ahead with Finglas three lengths behind. Fourth was Jens Findel, the German sailor losing 25 seconds in that lap. Sandy Higgins was on fire after his first race win and he climbed further to fifth place.

At the fourth mark, Martin and Jeff Nelson were at least five boat lengths ahead of Nick Adamson, with Adrian Finglass third. By the fifth mark, Martin had extended by another boat length, from Adamson with Higgins now third.

However it was tight between Higgins, Finglas and Findel, with only as boat length between the three crews.

The wind was continuing to build, gusting into the 20's, with seas of 1.5 metres. Higgins was suffering and fell back in the fleet.

Mike Martin's Black Boat, do what she has done before and received the gun ahead of Nick Adamson . The balance of the Placing are yet to be confirmed.

### **Australian wins SAP International 505 Worlds first race**

The first race in the nine race SAP 505 International World Championships has just been sailed off Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club on the crystal clear waters of St Vincent's Gulf in South Australia, 17km from Adelaide.

Overcast conditions, building cumulo-nimbus in the distance. Before the start, the wind was 12-15 knots from the south, with a moderate amount of chop.

Start time; wind direction 170, first leg 1.2 miles. A gate start for the big 505 fleet, 87 boats from 12 countries.

The forecast at least for the first three days are for fresh winds. This should suit the winners of the Pre-Worlds, Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson. Martin and Nelson are a big team and were flying in the strong winds. Beyond that, there are a huge range of competitors who could be in contention. The standard of sailors at this regatta is exceptional. There are Olympians, America's Cup Sailors, World Champions and professional sailors throughout the fleet.

By start time the wind was continuing to build to 15-18 knots. Queenslander Bill Cuneo has a great start, but faded up the beat. Ian Pinell (GBR) back in 10th place was moving forward. Initially the leaders continued left but they soon tacked onto port and then back on a second shift. The wind built up the beat, with gusts into the low 20's.

At the top mark USA sailors Nick Adamson and crew Steve Bourdow, led from Ian Pinnell and Steve Hunt (GBR) with Mike Holt (USA) and Carl Smit third. Sandy Higgins (AUS/SA) was fourth ahead of another Australian Chris Nicholson, the 2002 World Champion. Sixth was Kevin Taugher (USA) then the black boat of Mike Martin (USA), who was second in the Pre-Worlds.

At the bottom mark, Sandy Higgins was almost through Nick Adamson, with Pinnell two lengths back followed by Holt, Taugher, Martin, 2007 Australian Champion Michael Quirk and then Robin Deussen. Chris Nicholson fell back as did Bill Cuneo.

At the top, the fleet turned to the shy reach, with the wind now only 10-12 knots, but still quite choppy and back in the fleet there had been a number of capsizes after the first spinnaker hoist.

Adamson led at that mark from Holt by a boat length, with Sandy Higgins another boat length back, ahead of Pinnell yet another boat length back.

Then there was a big gap back to Deussen, at least a minute behind with Taugher another three boat lengths behind with Cuneo close.

Round the next mark, Higgins blasted into the lead, two boat lengths ahead of Holt, the right paid and there were big gains for Higgins. Now Pinnell was third and Adamson had fallen back to fourth place.

Higgins sailed his Hawaii Five O into a solid lead.

The breeze was continuing to drop and the field was stringing out back up the course.

At the gybe mark, Higgins with crewman Paul Marsh had extended his lead, he was more than 30 seconds ahead of Holt, who was two boat lengths ahead of Pinnell, with Adamson now a long way back, almost a minute behind in fourth place.

Wind conditions remained shifty right to end of the race.

Local heroes Sandy Higgins and Paul Marsh won to loud cheers from the partisan spectator fleet. In second place was Mike Holt (USA) with Britisher Ian Pinnell third over the line, proving that while the English can't play cricket, they can sail.

Fourth was early leader Nick Adamson.