

Chevrolet Hobie Worlds Double Whammy for SA

South Africa scored a double victory at the Chevrolet Hobie Cat 16 World Championships in Nelson Mandela Bay in early November. Capetonians Shaun Ferry and Michele le Sueur took the world title in the Open category with Blaine Dodds and daughter Roxanne from Plettenberg Bay coming second.

For two-time former world champion Ferry, the victory came after a week of very hard sailing and consistent performances. "I don't think it has sunk in yet. It is just absolutely amazing that all the hard work of the past year has paid off. I've put everything on hold for a year to prepare for this," said an overwhelmed Ferry after the race. Ferry's previous world champion titles came in 1998 in Dubai and 1993 in Guadeloupe.

"I can remember my first world championships when I was about 13 or 14 and how I was absolutely enthralled by Mick Whitehead (former world champion) and his passion for Hobie sailing. He was my hero and it is unbelievable that I can stand here today and claim the title for a third time," said Ferry at the prize-giving.

The South Africans' victory can only be ascribed to their sensational consistency for the duration of the championships.



Pic by: Rob Tarr

Ferry and Le Sueur featured in the top five finishers in four races leading up to the finals and on the final day could discard their worst race – a very creditable 16th

place.

Reigning SA national champion Blaine Dodds and his 19-year old daughter Roxanne continued with the impressive



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performance after taking the title in the Masters category earlier in the event, and maintained their competitive performance in the semifinals. Dodds is certainly no newcomer to Hobie sailing and has a world championship title under the belt. Dodds and Steve Arnold won the Hobie World Championships in Australia in 1998. He and Shaun Ferry were regular top three finishers in the worlds in the early 1980s.

Germans Ingo Delius and Katrin Wiese-Dohse finished third with Tim Shuwalow and Cameron Hooper of Australia in fourth position. Another pair of South Africans, Paul Lagesse and Tyran Kerford from the Hottentots Holland Beach Sailing Club, took fifth place.

Nelson Mandela Bay played host to top

teams from 28 countries from across the globe for almost two weeks. Competitors were challenged with a wide variety of sailing conditions ranging from light, fluky westerly breezes on flat seas to gale force south-easters and high sea swells. Although the event had a slow start with the cancellation of the first day of sailing, action quickly picked up with the battle for supremacy in the Youth, Women, Masters and Grand Masters categories.

Teams only managed to complete one race in both the Masters and Grand Masters categories with the top spot going to South Africans Blaine and Roxanne Dodds in the Masters and Australians Bruce Tardrew and Sarah Turnbull in the Grand Masters.

The French Youth team of Cedric

Bader and Yann Montoya came to the championships as top contenders after recent victories in both the Youth and Open categories at the European championships. They took the title after top five finishes in all three races. Tom Phipps and Andrew Taylor from Great Britain finished second overall with Puerto Ricans Francisco Figuera and Martin Roldan in third position.

After three races, the French team of Morgane Laurancy and Marion Penneneach took the top spot in the women's division. South Africans Belinda Hayward and Kim Wilkinson-Davies caused an upset when they took the second place and relegated reigning world champion Pamela Noriega and Andrea Mier y Teran of Mexico to third.

Hayward only recently returned to Hobie sailing after an absence of 11 years and was completely delighted with their performance. "Obviously we would have loved the gold, but I'm extremely happy with our performance," she said.

Eighty two teams participated in the qualifying rounds for the Opens with Tahitians Teiva Veronique and Kaya Guillan finishing at the top of the qualifiers. South Africans Andrew Ward and Steve Arnold were second and Kiwis Fletcher Warren



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and Georgia Myers finished third overall. Mark Laruffa sailed in the open qualifier for Italy with local replacement crew 16-year old Joshua Selig and made it to the semifinals in fourth spot on the log. Laruffa's regular crew was injured during the Masters race and Selig stood in at 24-hour notice. "It was a really tough and exciting race. It was great sailing with such an experienced skipper," said young Selig.

Belinda Hayward and Kim Wilkinson-Davies widely impressed with their determination during the Open qualifiers. Braving wild seas and winds gusting over 35 knots, Hayward put up a stellar performance of survival sailing. With a third place finish on Saturday and finishing in the top 20 on Sunday, they continued their march to the semifinals. A total of 45 teams advanced through the qualifiers to compete in the semifinals.

The first day of the semifinals welcomed the competitors with light breezes and flat seas, a welcome change from the stormy winds

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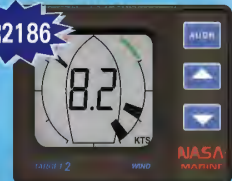
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and rough seas of the previous couple of days. The South Africans quickly put their mark on the event when Ferry and le Sueur took victory in the first race. On the second day, light winds eventually led to the cancellation of the second race. Germany's Ingo Delius and Katrin Wiese-Dohse won the first race with South Africans William and Lucinda Edwards second. Paul Lagesse

and Tyrone Kerford of South Africa were third again.

Another dramatic weather change put paid to the next day of semifinal rounds as gale force conditions prevailed across the bay. As only three races had been completed in the semifinals, the decision was made to extend the semi-finals to the penultimate day of the championships.



Pic by: Lindy McGillivray



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Eventually the weather gods smiled on the 112 competing teams and a full day of sailing in perfect sailing conditions could be completed. The final day of the championships dawned with Australians Tim Shuwalow and Cameron Hooper at the top of the leader board with Ferry and Le Sueur second, Blaine and Roxanne Dodds third, Lagesse and Kerford fourth. ⚓

Results - Hobie Worlds

Open Worlds

1 Shaun Ferry & Michele le Sueur	RSA
2 Blaine Dodds & Roxanne Dodds	RSA
3 Ingo Delius & Katrin Wiese-Dohse	GER
4 Tim Shuwalow & Cameron Hooper	AUS
5 Paul Lagesse & Tyran Kerford	RSA
6 Jerome Le Gal & Siret Mickael	FRA
7 Cédric Bader & Yann Montoya	FRA
8 Tom Phipps & Andrew Tayler	GBR
9 Juani Maegli & Cristina Guirola	GUA
10 Micheal Butler & Susan Etherington	AUS
19 Gordon McGillivray & Inge Schabort	RSA
21 Eric Cook & Robert Edouard-Betsy	RSA
22 William Edwards & Lucinda Edwards	RSA
23 Andrew Ward & Steve Arnold	RSA
27 Colin Whitehead & Matthew Whitehead	RSA
39 Allan Lawrence & Nicola Francis	RSA
52 Hylton Hale & Kim Rowlands	RSA
54 Robert Fine & Karen Wichardt	RSA

Women - 12 entries - 3 races

1 Morgane Laurancy & Marion Pennaneach	FRA
2 Belinda Hayward & Kim Wilkinson-Davies	RSA
3 Pamela Noriega & Andrea Miery Teran	MEX
6 Jana Buhmann & Linda de Rooy	RSA
7 Anne Lomax & Loraine Dugan-Jones	RSA
8 Caroline Hutchison & Carolyn Fulton	RSA
9 Inge Schabort & Kim Rowlands	RSA
10 Philippa McLaren & Lorna McLaren	RSA

Masters - 53 entries - 1 race

1 Blaine Dodds & Roxanne Dodds	RSA
2 Mike Montague & Kathy Ward	USA
3 Bruce Tardrew & Sarah Turnbull	AUS
8 John Ryall & Jackie Pierpoint	RSA

Youth - 19 entries - 3 races

1 Cédric Bader & Yann Montoya	FRA
2 Tom Phipps & Andrew Tayler	GBR
3 Francisco Figueroa & Martin Roldan	PUR
12 Evan Hobson & Brett Stirk	RSA
15 Simon Botes & Derek Rosa	RSA
16 Dean Vorster & Taryn Keefer	RSA
17 Joshua Selig & Kyle De Wet	RSA

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