

2016 Interclub Challenge Wrap up

The 'Interclub Challenge' is a fleet racing series contested by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron & Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club to promote youth sailing.



(Interclub fleet in action at the opening round at the CYCA)

It was created in 2001 as a way to help identify & build youth sailors experience in fleet racing events whom participate in youth sailing programs of each club. Each participating yacht club hosts a fleet race regatta day comprising of 6 windward/leeward fleet races with a maximum of 2 teams competing from each club at each event. Four events will constitute the series in 2016 with CYCA opening up the series at the end of May and concluded this past weekend in Newcastle. Each clubs combined scores from all four events will be calculated and an overall Series winner is announced.

The opening day of competition saw a light winter sea breeze in Rushcutters Bay develop on Sunday 29th May. 7 teams took to the starting line at the CYCA event with the Race Committee, led by YSA Administrator, Pam Scrivenor, completing the 6 race series by mid-afternoon. At the end of the opening day, the RSYS team took out

'Boat of the Day', whilst the CYCA's combined team scores saw them lead the series overall.

Heading across the Harbour to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for the second event on Sunday 19th June, the CYCA team led by Finn Tapper took home 'Boat of the Day' with the consistent scores from the RSYS teams, taking home 'Club of the Day'.



(CYCA Interclub team at the RSYS event with Boat of the Day prize)

Teams then traveled north to Pittwater for the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club's race day on Sunday 26th June. Again, the RSYS match racing representative teams showed the way, taking home 1st and 2nd on the day and moving the RSYS into 1st overall whilst the two teams from Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club put serious pressure on 2nd place CYCA to close to 2 points before the all important final event.

The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club hosted their first Interclub event on Sunday 3rd July after joining the series in 2015. Having purchased RPAYC's previous fleet of yachts, the Force 24s, the NCYC event introduced a new fleet to the series. Due to only having 6 boats, only 1 team from each club were able to compete.

Sailed inside Newcastle Harbour, providing a fantastic backdrop to the conclusion of the series, a beautiful sunny, 8-knot breeze with some big shifts coming down each side of the course made for a tricky day for the competitors. Having already consolidated their lead in the series, RSYS had another successful day, taking home their 3rd 'Boat of the Day' prize and winning the overall Interclub Series.

In the end, a strong performance on home waters saw newcomers to the series, NCYC leapfrog the CYCA to claim second in the series with 2015 winners, RPAYC finishing 4th.

The Interclub Challenge is a very unique series, continuing through the support of various members at each club. On behalf of all yacht clubs, a special thanks to each clubs Sailing Office team for all their hard work during each event as well as all Race Committee officials and support boats. The RSYS also made a special thanks to the CYCA for lending 4 of their Elliott 7s for their event whilst NCYC thanked all clubs for their support and guidance in running their first Interclub event.

The series will continue to 2017 with Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club opening up the competition at the end of May before racing continues in Sydney with the RPAYC, CYCA and RSYS events.