

VIKINGS TROPHY 2007

A best-of-seven match-racing event for International A-Class R/C yachts.

Sunday September 9th.

The inaugural event was set for 2006 but the Canberra Model Yacht Club (CMYC) did not receive any notice of challenge from any other club, so the competition was cancelled for that year.

This year CMYC received a challenge from one club - Harrington Park, Sydney. Their representative was Gary Decluzel, who sailed a Frank Russell-designed Sidewinder, whilst the defending yacht, chosen after a series of intra-club trials, was "Ghost", a Peter Wiles Sweet 9 design, sailed by owner Alan Edward.

Three weeks ago the CMYC hosted the National Championship for the EC12 Class and the wind stayed away in droves.

It looked as if the same thing was going to happen today; with the first race due to start at midday, the wind was taking its time arriving.

But arrive it did - in little individual parcels!

From the north, the dark patches could be seen on the far side of the lake (Burley Griffin) and all races were sailed without having to shorten the course, as they always arrived on our side in time.

Race 1 began at 12:10 PM and was the closest race of the lot, with Alan Edward winning by the slim margin of one boat length after what was a pretty close race all the way around the course (triangle and "sausage").

CMYC = 1

HP = 0

Race 2 immediately followed the completion of the first race, as the breeze was still about. This time the tables were turned and Gary took line honours by half the length of the final straight. Alan had a couple of mark infringement penalties, which didn't help his chances.

CMYC = 1

HP = 1

With the little bits of breeze still wafting across the water, we went into Race 3 almost immediately. Gary crossed the line a half-second early and so Alan looked as if he would round the first mark in the lead as Gary restarted.

But no! The Sydney boat sailed a straighter line to the first buoy but was sailing too high, dropped away to make the mark and hit that striped lump. One penalty for Gary to complete before the end of the race. Then there was contact with another mark, with the result that Alan won the race by three boat lengths. If Gary had not had, as he called it, "temporary insanity" then the result may well have gone the other way.

CMYC = 2

HP = 1

Race 4 and the result could have gone to either skipper until the last leg of the windward-return, when the challenger suffered winch failure due to a dead battery. The CMYC won this race by a leg, in effect.

CMYC = 3

HP = 1

Shades of the America's Cup 1983, with Aussie II on the ropes!

Both yachts crossed the start-line within a length of the other and Gary rounded the first mark in the lead.

But a right-of-way infringement at the second mark resulted in the Sydney yacht having to undertake a penalty and the distance at the finish - less than a couple of boat-lengths - was the killer, with the defender crossing for a 4-1 result in the best-of-seven series.

A presentation was held after the finish, with Vice-President of the CMYC Bob Fleming presenting both contestants with trophy's and then the official Vikings Shield to Alan Edward on behalf of the Vikings Clubs of Canberra, sponsors of the event.

Congratulations and thanks go to both skippers for providing some close and entertaining racing, to Gary for making the trip from Camden and to Alan for his successful defence in this debut event.

Thanks also to Bob, Ron Cooper, Bob Stevenson, Russell Dew and Graham Brown for buoy judging, to Marjie Cooper for just being there, to Gayna Edward for delivering Alan's transmitter in time, to Bill Kirwan for popping in and to Lyndon Wilson's dog George for disposing of the edible rubbish.

Photos of the event are available for viewing at the web addresses below (when viewing, right-click to download and save if you wish) as follows:-

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_a.jpg

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_h.jpg

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_i.jpg

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_j.jpg

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_k.jpg

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_m.jpg

http://www.netspeed.com.au/bhk/viking/vikings-trophy_2007_o.jpg

Bruce Kennewell
Secretary, CMYC.