

Report for Lower North Island Teams Racing Championships.

Evans Bay, Wellington 8-10 March 2014.

7 teams attended: 2 from Scots College, 2 from Wellington College and 1 each from Lindisfarne, New Plymouth Girls and New Plymouth Boys.

For the second year running, Wellington turned on ideal sailing weather for 3 days, testing the sailors in all conditions from 4-20 knots.

Day 1 was light and Scots 1 came out on top having had a clear first round robin. By the end of a second round, which was completed by lunch on Day 2, Lindisfarne were ahead, Scots 1 close behind, then NP Boys and Scots 2. These 4 teams qualified for Gold fleet.

Day 2 had started out light but built steadily, leading to the silver fleet being reefed whilst the battle in the Gold fleet continued. The last race of the second Gold RR between Lindisfarne and Scots 1 was called off when both teams had gear failure and with the wind speed right on the limit.

Day 3 was light and at the start of the final round Wellington College 1 was leading the Silver fleet. The Silver fleet teams were very competitive and there were some very close races with excellent teams racing manoeuvres.

In the Gold fleet Lindisfarne, NP Boys and Scots 1 started close together on points, New Boys having closed the gap with 2 clear rounds the day before. This led to a very exciting last day with some extremely tight racing and some races proving to be game changers. Scots 2 had some good wins in the final gold RR.

There were lots of cheers from those on the changeover boats and all the teams seemed to have fun both on and off the water. As an aside, the incoming jumbos provided entertainment with large waterspouts travelling up the Bay, fortunately not over the course.

The final result highlights the closeness of the teams with the top 3 teams all within 1 point of one another and New Plymouth Boys and Lindisfarne on equal points, New Plymouth Boys winning on count back.

Gold fleet: 1st New Plymouth Boys, 2nd Lindisfarne, 3rd Scots 1, 4th Scots 2

Silver Fleet: 1st Wellington College 1, 2nd New Plymouth Girls, 3rd Wellington College 2

Thanks to the hosts Evans Bay Yacht Club, Gary Wagstaff and Russell Maxwell.