

420 College Team Sailing 'Top of the South' Regional Regatta at QCYC – Picton – 26-28 March

10 teams competed in Picton Harbour last Thursday to Saturday: Three Teams from Marlborough (Marlborough Boys, Marlborough girls and Queen Charlotte College), 5 from Nelson, Mt Aspiring from Wanaka and Christchurch boys who won the title last year.

Day 1

The day's sailing starting out with light but steady winds. At times the wind dropped away. Teams got through 32 of the 45 races of the first Round Robin. The following 3 teams only lost one race on this day: Marlborough boys, Christchurch boys and Queen Charlotte College.

Day 2

Friday morning brought a Southerly with the course set accordingly. The 1st Round Robin was completed. Tight competition as Marlborough Boys, Christchurch Boys and Queen Charlotte College ended up at the top with the same points. They were allocated to the Gold fleet for the next round together with Nelson Girls and Mt Aspiring College. With the silver fleet consisting mainly of Nelson Teams and Marlborough Girls who recently lost two of their skippers. Another Round Robin was sailed in each fleet (20 races each). And a third started till the wind dropped and sailing was postponed to the next day.

Day 3

The wind was not playing the game and crews entertained themselves ashore until the water started to ripple and the signal for launch was given. The third Round Robin had to be finished and if possible a fourth one sailed as well. Racing on Saturday was in very light winds. The 3rd round was sailed but while the fourth one was started the wind did not pick up to get very far.

Overall regatta went well and the Marlborough boys and Queen Charlotte certainly made true the first step of their goals. Hopefully both teams will be seeding into gold fleet for the Nationals. Six of the ten teams that competed will be going to Taupo to sail the Team sailing nationals on April 12-17.

Final Placings

GOLD FLEET	SILVER FLEET
1. Marlborough Boys College	1. Nelson Boys College
2. Christchurch Boys High School	2. Waimea College
3. Queen Charlotte College	3. Nayland College
4. Nelson Girls College (First Girls Team)	4. Marlborough Girls College
5. Mt Aspiring College	5. Motueka College

Top of the South Trophy

This is calculated by awarding a point to the winner every time a Nelson team races a Marlborough Team. This trophy was convincingly won by Marlborough by 17 pts over 10.

The regatta was closed off with all the teams and their support in the Pavilion in Endeavour Park. Games, dinner and prize giving before everyone headed home. Thanks to everyone for helping out with this event.

Christel Hopkins