

## **Open Team Racing National Championships 2021 – Event Report**

Queen's Birthday Weekend saw a fourth G.J. Gardner Homes Open Team Sailing National Championships held at the Kerikeri Cruising Club. Ten teams competed for the trophy donated by Core Builders Composites. This is an interesting piece of sailing history being a mounted Cap Shroud Sheave from 'USA 17' Winner of the 2010 America's Cup.

Challenging weather conditions meant only two full days of racing were completed. The Race Officer, Boat Master, Changeover Drivers, Umpires, sailors and the multitude of volunteers who make this event a success were tested by the vagrancies of the weather! That said, it was a very successful regatta!

Spectators were treated to some exceptional 420 dinghy sailing as helms and their crews displayed their skill set in the tricky conditions. Racing on the Sunday was close, and at speed, with some races taking only six minutes! Sailors' quick thinking, agility and slick manoeuvring made for exciting viewing!

The volunteers who ensure this regatta is a success are to be thanked for their efforts. Many of whom travel some distance at their own expense.

Team Crossbred Kiwis were the winners, losing only one race to Team Five Chicks and One Dude. In that race, one Chick, Olympian Olivia Powrie called a wind shift perfectly on the finish line to beat Reuben Corbett. It was great to see other team racers from the past competing over the weekend...Samantha Norman (nee Harrison) and James Gell being just two of these sailors, who along with Reuben were part of the highly successful K.K.H.S. Sailing Team.

Team Thievery comprising of Josh Edmonds, Kaitlyn Turner, Jamie Catchpole, Celia Balemi, Harrison Carver and Rebecca Fleet returned for a fourth year to take a shot at the title. Stiff competition saw them finishing in fourth place. They are sure to be back again next year! It is great to see teams returning to enjoy this Queen's Birthday competition!

Crossbred Kiwis comprised of Helm Dylan Wichman/Crew Emilie Jones, Helm George Angus/Crew Hugo McMullen, Helm Reuben Corbett/Crew Andi Hawtin. Team Favourites were Helm Frankie Dair/Crew Maeve White, Helm Jordan Stevenson/Crew Harry McMullen, Helm Jack Bunce/Crew Sam Scott. Team Waimea who travelled from Nelson were Helm Luis Schneider/Crew Sophia Sidley, Helm Macgregor Jones/Crew Ruby Campbell, Helm Alex Bentley/Crew Sarah Charles.

The Yachting NZ provided film crew, featuring commentator Jesse Tuke, will be televising the event on Sky TV so watch out for this!

All Team Racers and potential Team Racers mark this regatta on your sailing calendar now for 2022!!

**Overall Results:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Crossbred Kiwis

2<sup>nd</sup>: Favourites

3<sup>rd</sup>: Waimea College

4<sup>th</sup>: Thievery

5<sup>th</sup>: 5 Chicks & 1 Dude

6<sup>th</sup>: Boobs to the Back

7<sup>th</sup>: YTP

8<sup>th</sup>: Knot Very Fast

9<sup>th</sup>: Shack

10<sup>th</sup>: Rapunzel