

## IOM Interclub Challenge 2014

*Dunmore Lakes (hosted by WMYC) 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014*

“We had better bring a shovel to get this trophy back” said a prominent member of the radio yachting community. And, he wasn’t kidding. Rumour had it that the Wollongong boys had buried the much desired and prideful trophy and were setting up tank traps and trenches to protect it.



17 sailors from Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra travelled to this prestigious event. Over the last few years it has been held by Kogarah, Canberra and Wollongong. Designed as a fun day to be had by all with handicap starts, everyone has a ball chasing everyone else around the ponds. Sail, eat and be merry was the theme of the day.

Wollongong is famous for its hosting and I don’t think anybody was disappointed this time.

After the skippers meeting we had a bit of time to chat and have an extra coffee and slice waiting for the wafting S to SE to break in and give some stability. But the delay was short and after an initial scratch race to sort out the initial handicaps we settled into lots of fun racing with beautiful RH and then LH lifts to keep us all on edge. Sailing at its best.



An advantage of handicap racing is that you can generally find a bit of fresh air to keep moving, always searching for that allusive minor advantage... all the time looking back to cover your tail. Mark roundings are usually less crowded but this time we seemed to run into holes on marks and the whole race looked like a train wreck. One could only laugh.



There are too many stories of minor tussles to cover in this report. Everyone had a story (or two or three). The range of different winners over the day was a great testament to the working of the handicap system. But persistence (and probably a bit of smart coaching) saw our three podium boys pop out at the top. Mind you, we had little idea of who it was until announced.

1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Keavy



2<sup>nd</sup> Ralph Hyman



3<sup>rd</sup> Allan Roberts



Thanks again to Big Al, Laurie and Ralph for doing the background hosting. Cathy for her neat writing and masterly recording, and finally Warren for leaving his boat in the car at the last minute and volunteering to run the show. Twas a fun event for all.



Now to the clubs. Thanks to Pittwater, Wollongong, Kogarah and Koonawarra Bay for entering strong teams. The event is designed to have individual places as well as the top three results from each club going to determine who gets “bragging rights” for the following year and bolt down the trophy for the next onslaught.



This year **Kogarah** wrenched the dirt laden trophy from a battered and war weary Wollongong by 2 points (can you believe it!).

“So here is the shovel... go find it yourself” .....some clubs just don’t want to let it go.

1. KBRYC (Kogarah Bay)
2. WMYC (Wollongong... Dunmore Ponds)
3. KOBYC (Koonawarra Bay ... Lake Illawarra)
4. PWRYC (Pitwater)



Thanks to all for making the trip and making the event. It is nice to relax with our fellow sailors and renew old friendships.

*Wollongong Model Yacht Club*

*(with a big hole to fill in next meeting... might leave it open until next year??!!)*