

NSW EC12 CHAMPIONSHIP

Nine boats arrived at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club on the 20th of October to contest the 2007 NSW EC12 Championships. The conditions were fine and sunny with a light SE breeze which gradually swung around to the east during the morning. Unfortunately John Hall had electrical problems so only eight boats started. John was able to join the regatta in Race 8. During Race 6 Neil Webb had a winch failure which put him out for the rest of the day. A new sailor Rob Westway was improving race by race until fatal electrical problems put him out of the regatta after Race 10

Defending champion Gary Declauzel stamped his authority early by winning Races 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. Bruce Smith took out Races 3 and 8 and Leigh Grove won Race 7. By Race 8 the breeze had filled in from the east and most skippers elected to change down to B rig. With the stronger breeze and a Kogarah Bay chop Daniel Grove was giving Gary plenty of competition. Gary won races 11, 13 and 18. Daniel won races 12, 14, 15 and 17 and Bruce Smith took out race 16. So after 18 races at the end of day 1, Gary was leading and the rest of the field were fighting it out for the minor placings.

Sunday started with a nice SE breeze and Ross Audsley won Race 19, 20 and 27 and also had a number of 2nd and 3rd places. At lunch time the wind swung to the NE and strengthened to 20 knots. All boats were now sailing with B or C rigs. The EC12s were a fine sight surfing the waves on the reaches and runs and battling their way to windward in scenes reminiscent of the Americas Cup defence in Perth. Gary was winning most races but wins were had by Glynn Pulling, Leigh Grove and Neil Webb. Colin Ferguson racing with his C rig was keeping Ross and Leigh on their toes with consistent sailing. He finished the regatta with 4 second places and 3 thirds. So at the end of day 2 and with 33 races completed the finishing positions were:

1	Gary Declauzel	42 points
2	Ross Audsley	84 points
3	Leigh Grove	124 points
4	Colin Ferguson	130 points
5	Daniel Grove	155 points
6	Bruce Smith	182 points
7	Neil Webb	192 points
8	John Hall	209 points
9	Glynn Pulling	249 points
10	Rob Westway	287 Points

Congratulations to Gary for retaining the trophy, and to Ross and Leigh for the minor placings. The regatta was sailed in a great spirit with all protests settled on the water. Thanks to the KBRYC members John Haines, Brian Hard and Mathew McAnna for helping run the Regatta.

Owen Jarvis
PRO