

MIDDLE HARBOUR



Sailors seal victory in challenge

Sydney crew wins back yacht title

Fiona Brady

A TEAM of peninsula sailors has earned Sydney good-natured bragging rights over Melbourne by winning an interstate yachting regatta on the harbour on Sunday.

The 24 sailors from the Middle Harbour Yacht Club took on the might of three Melbourne clubs in the three-race teams challenge event with one-design Adams 10 boats.

Organiser Lindsay Rose said the annual Victorian Clubs Challenge had been going for 16 years and was usually a close contest.

"It's a fun event with great camaraderie between the Victoria and NSW entrants," he said. "It started after a boozy lunch between two commodores who both claimed to be the best on water."

The race location alternates between Sydney and Melbourne each year.

As the southerners won by just one point last year, the Sydneysiders wanted revenge. And the peninsula team, including local Patrick Delany, were triumphant – winning all three races with a final score of 21 to the Melburnians' 42.

"It was home ground and we had very good crews," Mr Rose said. "I'd also like to thank the starting boat for their professional effort in getting three races in."

Mr Rose said the Melbourne sailors were good losers, but Sydney plans to hold on to the title next year.

"We can definitely win again. We're pretty confident," he said. "We've got a younger group coming through."



Left: John Roxburgh, president of the Adams 10 Class, and MHYC's rep Geoff Charters hold up the Waitangi Cup for 2016. Patrick Delany, right, with crew.



The rules of the challenge



- » The host club puts up eight yachts
- » Local skippers are not allowed to have their own boat, to ensure no local advantage, so boats are drawn from a hat
- » Held alternately in Sydney and Melbourne