

BREEZE

Official Publication of the **Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron**



**OUR YOUTH TEAMS
IN AUSTRALIA SCORE
1-2-3 AT THE HARKEN
AND WIN THE MUSTO**



Top Line-up for Match

Pictures & words by Ivor Wilkins

A mighty battle between two crews led by fellow RNZYS Lion Foundation Youth Training Programme graduates climaxed at this year's New Zealand Match Racing Championships. In the end, Will Tiller prevailed over America's Cup veteran Gavin Brady in a 3-2 result that never saw the finish margin exceed 13 seconds and had one match separated by just two seconds.

It was a neck and neck fight to the death with the younger Full Metal Jacket crew of Tiller, Brad Farrand, Harry Thurston and Shaun Mason taking out Brady's very experienced line-up of John Cutler, Rob Salthouse and Ryan Houston.

The results followed form, as Tiller's crew emerged with the top score after the round robin and advanced to the final with a 3-0 clean sweep over Laurie Jury. Brady's journey to the final was more difficult,

requiring all five matches to overcome a Luna Rossa crew led by Francesco Bruni.

In the battle for 3rd and 4th, Jury's 2-0 score over Bruni does not reflect how close the racing was.

A talented line up of 14 teams competed in the championships, using the Elliott 7 fleet for the first time. Conditions were primarily light with massive shifts keeping the crew and the Race Committee on their toes throughout the competition.



Racing Title

Many of the matches were nailbiters with multiple lead changes, plenty of umpire action and tight finishes.

"It has been a great year for our team," Tiller commented afterwards. "Eight regatta titles and taking our ISAF ranking to 6th in the world.

"The win here at the NZ Match Racing Championships is the icing on the cake and sees our goals for the year accomplished. Racing such great competition on your

home waters, in the variety of conditions that Auckland offers up with a fantastic set of race officers and umpires made for a very special event.

"The thrill of taking out the last race in a final when scores were tied 2-2 was just awesome and when it's against the likes of Gavin Brady, it's just incredible. I would like to thank my crew for a superb season, our sponsors and supporters Chris Meads, Doyle Sails, Events Clothing,

Aon Insurance, RNZYS and Kaenon Sunglasses, we greatly appreciate your support."

Tiller said his crew's sights are now set on the Redbull Youth America's Cup and the Alpari World Match Racing Tour for 2013.

Tiller's win confirmed a trend set over the past two years as this event witnessed a generational shift with younger teams rising to the fore. The more athletic, dinghy-style sailing imposed by the Elliott 7s might also have favoured the fresher-faced competitors.

Rod Davis represented the generation that brought New Zealand to match racing world prominence through the late 1980s and 1990s. More recently, he has been attuned to warp-speed sailing with the America's Cup multihulls, but says he found the switch from MRXs to Elliott 7s more difficult than the difference between multihulls and monohulls.

"I got a bit unstuck applying MRX-style match racing in a dinghy-like boat. With the MRX, in the last 30 seconds you only have one move left. With the Elliott 7, your last move can come in the last 10 seconds.

"Things like roll-tacking techniques made a huge difference. You can change momentum much more quickly with the Elliott 7."

Davis says multihull match racing is a very different form of the sport. "You don't see any of those nice duels where you tack 25 times out to the layline and hopefully take the dividend.

"With multihulls, each tack costs you five boatlengths, so the boats tend to head straight out to the boundaries and minimize the interaction.

"Also the two-minute pre-starts are very different. There may be a dial up at the





Winners circle.

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|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Young 88 National Champs | 1st | J109 North American Champs | 1st |
| Young 88 Owners National Champs | 1st | J111 North American Champs | 1st |
| Young 88 BMW Regatta | 1st | Melges 32 World Champs | 1st |
| Elliott 5.9 National Champs | 1st | Melges 24 North Americans | 1st |
| SR26 National Champs | 1st | Soto 40 South American Circuit | 1st |
| Magic 25 National Champs | 1st | Soto 40 European Champs | 1st |
| P Class National Champs | 1st | Swan 42 North American Champs | 1st |
| Farr 3.7 National Champs | 1st | Swan 45 World Champs | 1st |
| OK Dinghy National Champs | 1st | X-35 World Champs | 1st |
| M Class National Champs | 1st | X-41 World Champs | 1st |
| 12ft Skiff National Champs | 1st | Etchell World Champs | 1st |
| 18ft Skiff National Champs | 1st | Etchell North American Champs | 1st |
| B 36.7 North American Champs | 1st | Optimist European Champs | 1st |
| Farr 40 World Champs | 1st | Soling World Champs | 1st |
| FT 10 North American Champs | 1st | Rolex Sydney - Hobart | 1st |
| J105 North American Champs | 1st | Volvo Ocean Race | 1st |

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beginning and a luff at the end with very little of the circles and action we see in monohull pre-starts. It is a very different scenario."

As to the continuing young guns coming through the ranks, Davis is impressed. "There is great talent coming through the system. The signs are all good for New Zealand on the world stage for the next 10 years or more.

"It was awesome how good they are and how professional they are in their preparation – very impressive to see."

Results 5-14: David Hazard (RNZYS Lion Foundation Youth Programme), Chris Steele (RNZYS), Scott Dickson (Long Beach Yacht Club, USA), Rod Davis (RNZYS), David Wood (RNZYS), Mike Bullot (Murrays Bay Sailing Club), Sam Osborne (RNZYS), Hampus Appelgren (SWE), Tugdual Piriou (CNC, Noumea), Adam Middleton (Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club).

