

# 2008 Hardy Cup starts in Sydney Harbour nor'easter

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By Peter Campbell

After a morning delay because of lack of wind, the 2008 Hardy Cup ISAF Grade 3 Match Racing Event on Sydney Harbour began at 11am today between the best young match race sailors from Australia and New Zealand, plus one Sweden team.

The 12 teams, all under the age of 25, are sailing the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron's fleet of Elliott 6 sports boats in this event, the concept of Australian yachting icon Sir James Hardy. Five teams are sailing three-up, seven teams four-up to make the maximum weight limit.

With a harbour largely clear of traffic, the race committee set the course for the freshening north-easterly seabreeze between Clark Island and Shark Island.

The steady breeze saw spirited competition at the starts of each flight and close mark-rounding, with tactical decisions and good helming playing a key role in success.

At the end of the morning session, defending Hardy Cup champion Adam Minoprio with his BlackMatch team of David Swete and Nick Blackman from New Zealand headed the competition four wins and one loss.



Another win for Team BlackMatch, Adam Minoprio

West Australian Keith Swinton and his Black Swan four-crew team of Nick Davis, Peter Nicholas and James Catts, also had four wins and one defeat, their one loss being to Minoprio.



Team Black Swan Racing, Keith Swinton, in great shape

Fellow New Zealander Laurie Jury and his Kiwi match team of Graeme and Ben Sutherland scored three wins and two losses this morning, as did West Australian Torvar Mirsky and his Mirsky Team of Kinley Fowler and Tudor Owen.

Mirsky last week won the Warren Jones Youth Regatta in Perth.

The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron's senior team of Stuart Pollard, Ben Barzach, Ian Quartly and Kate Brown also notched up three wins out of the four races they sailed this morning. The RSYS Youth team of David Chapman, Edward Quartly and Thomas Scardifield, in their first Hardy Cup, had two wins, one against the Swedish team headed by John Back, the other against the woman's team headed by Nina Souter from the RPAYC.