

ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON – SAILING NEWS

2008 Hardy Cup – News update

12 February 2008

Minoprio heads Hardy Cup standings after day of drama and upsets

By Peter Campbell

New Zealanders Adam Minoprio and Laurie Jury, from the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron's Stuart Pollard have finished in the top three placings after the first round robin of the 2008 Hardy Cup ISAF Grade 3 match racing event on Sydney Harbour.



Laurie Jury leading Josh Junior

Racing ended late this afternoon when a severe thunderstorm with torrential rain swept of the Harbour, ending a day of closely competitive sailing in a freshening nor'easterly seabreeze that reached 18 knots this afternoon.

Shock result was the failure of West Australian Torvar Mirsky to qualify for tomorrow's the top-six round-robin to decide the finalists. Mirsky last week won the Warren Jones Youth Match Racing Regatta in Perth and was favourite for the Hardy Cup.



Adam Minoprio leading Torvar Mirsky who has still outstanding penalty

A collision with the committee boat at the start (knocking off the starting horn) in a luffing match with arch-rival Adam Minoprio saw Mirsky not only lose the flight but then suffer a penalty of 0.5 point.

But for that he would have finished with 7 points and third in standings at the end of the first round-robin. Instead he has ended with 6.5 points and in seventh place.

Countbacks had to be used to decide the two top placegetters, with Minoprio and Jury both finishing with eight wins for 11 flights in the round-robin. The two Kiwis finished first and second in last year's Hardy Cup and Minoprio again goes into the second round-robin at the top of the leaderboard.

Four teams also finished with seven wins each, but in a countback Stuart Pollard from the RSYS has finished in third place, followed by Keith Swinton from the South of Perth Yacht Club, another Kiwi, Josh Junior from Wellington's Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club, and, in sixth place, Evan Walker from Sydney's Cruising Yacht Club of Australia.



Stuart Pollard and his team

Pollard excelled back on his home waters and in the more familiar Elliott 6 sports boats after a mediocre result in the Warren Jones Youth Regatta.

In the first round-robin, he scored wins over the CYCA's Evan Walker, Keith Swinton from Perth, and the New Zealanders Laurie Jury and Junior. He lost to Minoprio, but by only 15 seconds.

The top six teams will sail tomorrow in a round-robin to decide the four to go onto Thursday's semi-finals and finals of the Hardy Cup, while the lower six teams are scheduled to sail a round-robin to decide the lower order standings.

Standings after Stage One - Round Robin:

1. Adam Minoprio, RNZYS, 8 wins – 3 losses
2. Laurie Jury, RNZYS, 8 wins – 3 losses
3. Stuart Pollard, RSYS, 7 wins – 4 losses
4. Keith Swinton, SoPYC, 7 wins – 4 losses
5. Josh Junior, RPNYC, 7 wins – 4 losses
6. Evan Walker, CYCA, 7 wins – 4 losses
7. Torvar Mirsky, RPYC, 7 wins – 4 losses
8. Nicole Souter, RPAYC, 5 wins – 6 losses
9. Robert Gibbs, RPYC, 5 wins – 6 losses
10. David Chapman, RSYS, 3 wins – 8 losses
11. Nina Curtis RPAYC, 2 wins – 9 losses
12. John Bäck, RSYC, 0 wins – 11 losses

Event Website: <http://www.rsys.com.au/sailing/HardyCup2008.php>

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