

## RSYS Logbook article – 2010 Etchells NSW Championship – Sam Crichton

Over the weekend of February 26, 27 and 28, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron played host to the International Etchells class for the 2010 Etchells New South Wales Championship.

Forty eight entries from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia arrived to take part in the event that was utilized by many in their preparations for the 2012 Etchells World Championship which RSYS will also host.

Former Etchells World Champions, current Etchells World Champions, National Etchells Champions and defending Etchells NSW State Champions made up the highly competitive fleet, all with their eye on the prize – the 2010 Etchells NSW Champion title. Twenty five of the 48 entries in this regatta raced under the RSYS burgee demonstrating the strength of the Etchells class at RSYS.

Racing for the 47 boats was conducted on the offshore course area known as Manly Circle for the first two days and was brought inside the entry to the harbour in the Sound on the final day of racing.

Many of the teams capitalised on the opportunity to sail on the Manly Circle course as they plan and prepare for an all out assault on the 2012 Etchells World Champion title.

The first day of racing in the three day series was as challenging as it was testing for all involved with a fickle wind making for a difficult day for everyone. Frustration was felt all round as the breeze played with the fleet and managed to reach every point on the compass over the course of the day. The race committee managed to complete two of the three planned races on day one.

Day two was in complete contrast with the first day of racing with the fleet finding picture perfect conditions with a 10 knot Nor'easter which settled in for the three races for the day.

The final day of racing started out with a tsunami warning and no breeze which subsequently had the fleet held ashore while the race committee waited for the breeze to develop. Eventually it came in from a southerly direction and the fleet headed towards the Sound to race. The race committee completed two races and wrapped the regatta up with seven of the eight races scheduled run and won.

Both David Clark's *Fifteen* and Tom King's *Iron Lotus* won two races a piece with the remaining three race winners being Mark Johnson's *Roulette*, Peter Merrington's *Odyssey* and Tom Slingsby's *Steampacket 7*.

Clark's *Fifteen* proved to be the most consistent team and eventual winner of the regatta with King's *Iron Lotus* finishing in second and Slingsby's *Steampacket 7* completed the podium in third.

Sydney Etchells fleet captain Jan Muysken commented after the regatta, "RSYS have helped the Sydney Etchells fleet host a terrific event for the competitors who lined up for the 2010 Etchells NSW Championship. We planned to use this as a preparation opportunity for the 2012 Etchells World Championship which the Sydney fleet along with RSYS will host and organize and we have benefited greatly".

Complete results for the event are available at [http://www.etchells.org.au/results/data/2010\\_states\\_NSW.asp](http://www.etchells.org.au/results/data/2010_states_NSW.asp)

