

## Spinnaker Auspicious crowned RYA National Team Racing Champions



Racing at the RYA Team Racing Nationals 2013 at West Kirby Sailing Club © Phil Shepherd

### Spinnaker Auspicious take event victory at West Kirby Sailing Club

A full entry of 24 teams converged on West Kirby Sailing Club on 16-17 March for the annual battle for the Prince Philip Trophy.

Although the fickle and often absent wind played havoc with the schedule, the always efficient West Kirby race managers managed to squeeze in the whole of the first round and enough of the subsequent gold, silver and bronze leagues to get a result for the event.

At the end of sailing on Saturday (16 March), six teams had achieved 100% wins including the joint favourites, West Kirby Hawks and Spinnaker Auspicious, together with Cambridge Blue, Southampton Male Voice Choir, West Kirby, and Rutland Raiders.

After an early start on Sunday (17 March) in a good force two north-westerly, round one was quickly completed and the teams divided into gold, silver and bronze leagues. The big surprise here was the seeded Itchenor team who ended up in the bronze league, mainly because they incurred a large number of rule 42 (propulsion) penalties.

The silver league was very closely contested with the Irish teams from Royal Cork YC and Howth YC finishing at the top and with Magdalen College School third, easily the best school result.

With the wind going left and right as well as stopping and starting the hardest worked person was Richard Cornah, the Course Manager. Southampton Male Voice Choir and Royal Forth Hoosiers were winning steadily but West Kirby Hawks and Spinnaker Auspicious were proving unstoppable with relatively easy race wins. Eventually the crunch race between them came around lunchtime.

Hawks looked better off the start line with Auspicious taking a penalty. However, they soon recovered on the run and, in the ensuing discussions one Hawk was penalised. This gave Auspicious a slight advantage and, up the last beat, the teams were very close. Inevitably there was a mêlée at the finishing line which the umpires did well to resolve. They penalised

Hawks for interfering after finishing and Auspicious for taking room to which he was not entitled; these offsetting penalties confirmed a win for Auspicious who thus retained the title as National Team Racing Champions.



The winners with the Prince Philip Trophy (left to right): Jo Findlay, Hamish Walker, Tom Hebbert, Marianthe Evangelides, Sam Littlejohn & Ellen Milner © Phil Shepherd

Particular thanks go to Phil Shepherd and Adam Whittle who did great work as Event Director and Chief Race Officer, to Richard Cornah as Course Manager, to the umpires under David Taylor's leadership, and to numerous West Kirby volunteers who gave up their time to look after everyone.

Richard Thompson

## **RYA National Team Racing Championship 2013 Final Results**

### **Winners - *Spinnaker Auspicious***

Tom Hebbert & 'M' Evangelides, Sam Littlejohn & Jo Findlay, Hamish Walker & Ellen Milner

### **Runners-Up - *West Kirby Hawks***

Andrew Cornah, Ben Field, Matt Findlay

### **Third place - *Southampton Male Voice Choir***

James Boyce, Ian Dobson, Sam Maxfield

***See Summary of Overall Results below***

**RYA National Team Racing Championship 2013: Overall Results Summarised**  
**Sailed at West Kirby SC on 16 and 17 March 2013**

Team	Race wins	No. Races	Percent wins	League position	Overall Position
Spinnaker Auspicious	6	6	100%	1	1
West Kirby Hawks	4	5	80%	2	2
SMVC	3	5	60%	3	3
Royal Forth Hoosiers	3	5	60%	3	4
Royal Thames	2	4	50%	5	5
Oxford Blue	2	6	33%	6	6
Cambridge Blue	1	5	20%	7	7
West Kirby	0	6	0%	8	8
Zephyr (Royal Cork)	4	4	100%	1	9
Howth YC	4	6	67%	2	10
MCS	3	5	60%	3	11
Wessex Exempt	3	5	60%	3	12
Bristol	2	5	40%	5	13
Liverpool	2	6	33%	6	14
Rutland Raiders	1	4	25%	7	15
Loughborough	1	5	20%	8	16
Itchenor	3	3	100%	1	17
Sheffield Steel	3	4	75%	2	18
Rutland Rascals	2	4	50%	3	19
Sevenoaks	2	4	50%	3	19
Manchester Purple	2	4	50%	3	19
Oxford White	1	2	50%	3	19
Tonbridge	1	4	25%	7	23
Norwich	0	3	0%	8	24