Kellett Shield - Great start to the Advanced Squad Season

Tom Grimes, Charlie Gundy, Brett Dixon and Nick Thyne steered Walker Corp to victory in the 2016 Kellett Shield fleet racing regatta this past weekend hosted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia on what was a tricky day on Sydney Harbour.

The Kellett Shield is the first regatta on the Youth Sailing Academy calendar with crews of four or five sailors on each Elliott 7 for a six-race program. The format for the regatta sees each crew member of each team having to helm at least one race on the day.

The forecast for the day saw a light Westerly breeze fill in for the morning before an unpredictable shifty afternoon change to the north-east. Luckily the Race Committee, led by

Pam Scivenor, got in four races before this happened and then managed the last two in light and shifty conditions.

This year seven teams from the CYCA, RSYS & Scots College took part. As always, consistency was key for a successful day on the water. Murray Jones and his team on Elliott Marine lead into Race 4 but an OCS and failure to return saw the team drop out of contention for the overall win even after 3 race wins.

Coming into the final race, newcomer to the Advanced Squad for 2016, Tom Grimes and his team were tied with Advanced Squad veteran Harry Price. Price, handing over the tiller to one of the CYCA's newest members, Alastair Hunter for the final race. In race 6 a few sailors were caught out when a north easterly came in for the last leg of the race even though the bridge flags were still showing a westerly. Price, who was leading for ¾ of the race, were a victim of this shift which saw Grimes and his team sail from 5th to 2nd in the final leg and with that taking the overall regatta title.

The Kellett Shield is an excellent opportunity for the new sailors to experience regatta conditions in every position on the Elliott. We saw many regular skippers in unfamiliar territory on the bow but they finished the day with a greater understanding of how communication and teamwork can make a boat go fast. With on-water umpiring by YSA Head Coach Jordan Reece and RSYS Coach Klade Hauschildt, each team also grew a better understanding of the Racing Rules of Sailing by the end of the day.

David Kellett, who in 1994 donated the Kellett Shield to the YSA to help promote and build youth sailing attending the end of regatta barbecue and presentation. For the past 23 years, the Kellett family have continued to support the CYCA YSA through sponsoring this event and this year David was thrilled to see so many team's competing in the event.

A special thank you also to the Race Committee team led by Pam Scivenor, Debbie Wilson, Matt Machado, Peter & Sharny Gallaway as well as the mark boat team of Jay Griffin & Elise Ryan for all their hard work over the regatta.

The 2016 YSA season continues over the coming months with Advanced Squad back into training next weekend before the first match-racing event for the season, the Shelving Systems Match Race that kicks off on Saturday 29th May 2016.

Kellett Shield - Saturday 14 May 2016

Advanced Squad Fleet Racing

Team	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Total Points	Final Position
CYCA	**Tom Grimes, Charlie Gundy, Brett Dixon, Nick Thyne**	2	4	2	1	2	2	13	**1**
CYCA	**Harry Price, John Cooley, Ben Robinson, Eric Sparkes, Alastair Hunter**	3	3	1	3	1	6	17	**2**
CYCA	**Murray Jones, Caitlin Tames, Tim Westwood, Annabel Hay**	1	1	3	8	3	5	21	**3**
RSYS	**Nick Rozenaurers, Ben Fraser, Zac Quinlan, Angus Olding, Katherine Shannon**	5	2	6	2	4	7	26	**4**
CYCA	**Lauren Gallaway, India Howard, Jess Grimes, Nicky Bradley**	4	6	4	5	7	1	27	**5**
SCOTS/CYCA	**Finn Tapper, Alex Marinelli, Darcy McCracken, James Watson**	6	5	7	4	5	3	30	**6**
RSYS	**Leo M, Alex Rozenauers, Madi O'Shea, Claudia Thackray, Fergus Abbott**	8	7	5	8	6	4	38	**7**