



ROLEX NEW YORK YACHT CLUB INVITATIONAL CUP

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RULE BRITANNIA!

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

The morning air reverberated with the sound of cannon fire and boat horns as the international fleet, battle flags flying, paraded around Newport harbor and past the main dock of the New York Yacht Club where supporters were gathered to cheer them on for the final day of the 2015 Rolex New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup.



PHOTOS



PHOTOS

This traditional sendoff for the competitors is just one of the many details that make this event so special. Over four editions, 21 countries have gone head-to-head on the water and then made lasting friendships during social gatherings at Harbour Court, New York Yacht Club's iconic waterfront clubhouse in Newport. As with the heritage of the sport, woven into the very fabric of this event is the historic partnership of Rolex and New York Yacht Club, which was forged in the 1950s. Through this enduring association, one of yachting's greatest traditions was established with a winning sailor being presented a specially-engraved Rolex timepiece – the ultimate symbol for achieving excellence.



Out on the water, the fleet was sent up Narragansett Bay for the second consecutive day, where racing was held in an eight knot south-southwesterly breeze. The team, representing one of the oldest yacht clubs in the world, London's Royal Thames Yacht Club, was in the most perilous position of the 17 competing teams. Having been in the lead, or tied for the lead, through the entire series, it was their regatta to win – or lose. In the first race of the day, an eighth-place finish put their nine-point cushion under pressure. With their closest competitor in the standings – Marblehead's Eastern Yacht Club – finishing fourth, the gap shrunk to five points.



"We didn't make it very easy for ourselves throughout the day," said John Greenland, skipper of the Royal Thames Yacht Club team. "At one point in the first race we almost sailed ourselves into a really comfortable position. Instead it turned inside out. But that's how the fleet has been all week. You just have to take each race as it comes."

Greenland said the team had a conversation to make sure they were in the right mindset going into the last race. They crossed the line 10th, with Eastern Yacht Club following in 12th; the Brits securing the win 71 points to Eastern's 78. "The overall level has absolutely improved," said an elated Greenland. "The competition

is demonstrated in the results. There are some seriously good sailors in these boats who are struggling to get into the top five. It's a great conclusion to years of preparation... everyone is over the moon."



The New York Yacht Club's team, led by skipper Paul Zabetakis, concluded the series second overall after finishes of 3-6 were added to their score line for 77 points. "We were third on the first day then we dropped to ninth; we had a couple of bad races," said Zabetakis. "We kept telling ourselves we could do it. Yesterday we went from ninth to fourth and then today it was a matter of sailing our own race. We felt like we did a great job."

The only team new to the 2015 Rolex New York Invitational Cup, Australia's Middle Harbour Yacht Club, not only met their goal for the regatta, they exceeded it. Hoping to finish in the top-five, they were fourth overall with 81 points after finishes of 7-2 on the final day of racing. Just one point behind was the Japan Sailing Federation, after placing 2-5 today.



Guido Belgioro-Nettis, skipper of the Middle Harbour Yacht Club team was very

happy with team's final position in their first appearance at the event. "We're a bit hard on ourselves," said the 2011 Rolex Farr 40 World Champion. "Putting the spinnaker in the water on the penultimate day of the competition was not a very smart tactical move. It set a bad precedent; we were about fourth [at that point] and then we finished 11th in that race. If you're in fourth place around the top mark you have half a chance of defending that position and not getting caught up with the fleet; but once you drop back its very hard. We came second today and once we managed to get out of the pack we just kept extending."

How to Replay the Event

All race information—including results, race instructions, press releases and links to live coverage are accessible via the [2015 Rolex NYYC Invitational Cup webpage](#).

High-resolution images: to download copyright free for editorial purposes, please register online.

Streaming Video & 3D Tracking: on-demand replays are available on Livestream.com. App is available on iTunes and through Google Play

2D Tracking: Replays of tracking are available via the event webpage and the TracTrac app for iPhones, iPads and Android devices. The 2D tracking will allow fans to follow a specific boat for the duration of the race.

Daily video updates area available on the 2015 Invitational Cup YouTube playlist.

On **Facebook:** Rolex NYYC Invitational Cup and on **Twitter:** @invitationalcup (#nyycic).

About the Rolex New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup

First held in 2009, the biennial Rolex New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup fuses five days of intense racing aboard identical Swan 42s, with a glamorous social schedule to deliver an unrivaled event for competitors from around the globe.

Competitors must be Corinthian (non-professional) sailors and members of the yacht clubs they represent; they must also be nationals of their countries.

The 2015 Rolex New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup welcomes competitors from the following yachts clubs: the Royal Yacht Squadron (GBR), Japan Sailing Federation (JPN), Real Club Nautico de Barcelona (ESP), Royal Canadian Yacht Club (CAN), Royal Cork Yacht Club (IRL), Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (HKG), Royal Thames Yacht Club (GBR), Yacht Club Argentino (ARG), Yacht Club Italiano (ITA), Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (AUS), Royal Swedish Yacht Club (SWE), Eastern Yacht Club (USA), Itchenor Sailing Club (GBR), Middle Harbour Yacht Club (AUS), Newport Harbor Yacht Club (USA), Seattle Yacht Club (USA) and New York Yacht Club (USA).

ABOUT REGATTANEWS.COM

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ABOUT ROLEX AND YACHTING

The Rolex New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup has been partnered with Rolex since 2011. The event forms a proud part of Rolex's association with yachting and the world's leading yacht clubs in particular.

For full details of Rolex's long-standing relationship with yachting, a dedicated Press Kit is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Italian](#).

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