

(unofficial) NZ Dragon Boat Corporate Leagues



2009	2008	
1	1	NZ Airforce Fastest bad sports on the block (which is a pity because they would win anyway) - Gold Medallists (Lake Pupuke Regionals), 3 rd (behind two Open Class teams) National Championship Grand Final
2	4	Environment Waikato Did you miss the results on the other 100 pages? Winner Councils Cup (Nationals) Silver Medallists (Lake Pupuke, Regionals), 2 nd Runner Up Final (Nationals).
3	NP	PWH Coopers Speedy new kids on the block! 3 rd at Lake Pupuke (Regionals) in which they were improving with every race, then 5 th (as 1 of only 2 corporate teams to qualify) in the National Championship Grand Final. Impressive, most impressive.
4	10	Screws Loose One to watch next year! Very, very, VERY unlucky not to make the runner-up final at the Nationals. Jumping up the league from 10 th to 4 th place.
5	2	Intergen Couldn't quite regain last year's form going down in the runner-up final (Nationals) to Environment Waikato.
6	NP	NZ Army
7	6	Lion
8	NP	Main Freight
9	NP	MEDievil
10	NP	BECA crewsaders

These league tables are extremely accurate, so there! If you want the nitty gritty details; league placings are based upon aggregate race times over at least two major regattas (one of them being the Nationals). Thus, the top corporate teams at Nationals were Airforce, PWH Coopers and Environment Waikato with respective average race times of 126.36, 121.91 and 131.02 seconds and were awarded 20,19 and 18 points (and so on through the competing corporate teams). At the Lake Pupuke Regionals the top teams were; Airforce (152.43 seconds, 20 points), EW (162.88, 19), EDS (164.57, 18), PWH (166.04, 17). The same process was applied to the South Island Regionals (and Wellington Sprints for those teams that hadn't raced in a 500m Regional final). At the end of the day Airforce had 40 points and top spot, from Environment Waikato with 37 points and PWH Coopers with 36. There you go, shouldn't have asked.....

This year we witnessed (to some extent) the disappearance of the corporate grade with Open, Development, and Corporate teams racing in the same finals at the Nationals. The results were both good and bad (but never ugly). As finals were seeded by aggregate times, for the most part, teams ended up in an appropriate final. Although, as aggregate results were *not* made available during the day, teams had to get busy with a calculator or leave the results to fate... a strategic slip-up by Screws Loose (they took it a little easy in the 4th heat) meant they missed out in a place in the runner-up final despite having been in the top ten teams all day. Had results been available, had they known, that an extra 0.7 seconds of effort would have been enough... well, the results may have been very different.

Another 'strangeness' was PWH qualifying for the Grand Final (a brilliant first time effort) but walking away without any bling! This is despite being the 2nd best corporate team (under the old 'divisions' method they would have walked away with fancy silver medals for 2nd place in the Corporate Final... and we would have had a nice bronze to add to the collection). Oh well, dem rules is dem rules.

Anyways, out of interest, this is how the teams rated (using the same system as applied to the corporate league) when *everyone* is mixed together (no point just

It's the Leagues, Jim

amalgamating Open and Corporate and leaving everyone else out in the cold. Well, none that I can see).

1	Open	HCWS Open Champs Lake Pupuke & Wellington
2	Open	KPC Open Champs (<i>just!</i>) at Nationals
3	School Boys	Shirley Boys High Boys Champs Nationals
4	Corporate	Airforce
5	School Boys	Rotorua High Schools 2nd Boys Final (Regionals)
6	Open	Tumeke Open Champs SI Regionals
7	School Boys	Westlake Killer Swans 2nd Boys Final (Nationals)
8	Development	Fei Long
9	Open	CPC Canterbury Dragons
10	School Mixed	Kaipara College
11=	Corporate	Environment Waikato & Intergen
...		...and, in 15 th place Christchurch Girls College held out the NZ Army (16 th) – proving all future defence contracts ought to go.....

So, there we have it. Environment Waikato (on aggregate times) *is* the 11th best team in NZ. (Interestingly the exact same position we finished at Nationals, when taking both days into account). No surprise that the top spots are dominated by Open and School teams (Boys). They took out 8 of the top 10 spots. A rather meaningless list though (unless you are near the top), an all-women's Breast Cancer team is never going to compete with a professional Open Class team and a sprints-meet at Wellington is hardly the same as a 500m National event. What's needed is a handicap between team divisions and a ranking on events. Ranking of events was easy, I borrowed the rankings from Noel Anderton (NZDBA); A win at the Nationals is worth more than a win at the Regionals, and likewise a win at the Regionals is worth more than a sprint-meet. So the teams can be judged against each other on a level playing field, I devised a ranking method that put them on a proportionately even footing (by making allowance based on the differences in average race times between the different divisions, and then awarding handicaps based on these averages). So here we go;

the Ultimate Dragon Boat League Table:

1	Open	KPC
2	Open	HCWS
3	Corporate	Airforce
4	School Boys	Shirley Boys High
5	Open	Tu Meke
6	Corporate	PWH Coopers
7	Development	Fei Long
8	School Boys	Rotorua Boys
9	Corporate	Environment Waikato
10	Corporate	Screws Loose

EW ranks as the 9th best team in the country slightly better than at Nationals which reflects the Silver Medal effort at Lake Pupuke. With a little luck 2010 will see the introduction of an official league allowing teams to accurately gauge their efforts from one season to the next.

- and thus endeth the lesson, *Dr T.*