

2024 New England Lipton Inter-Club Challenge, May 18/19 2024

Background

Sir Tommy Lipton gifted a trophy in 1919 to Southern Yacht Club as a perpetual trophy to be raced in a one design fleet regatta between clubs on the Gulf Coast. Southern Yacht Club (SYC) commissioned the design of the Fish Class and the first one-design competition between clubs was held in 1920. The Gulf Yachting Association (GYA) are the Organizing Authority and SYC are the trustees of gift. The Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge Cup is one of the oldest and longest running one-design events in North America

The Fish class was replaced by the Flying Scott in 1968. The Flying Scot was superseded by the Viper 640 in 2016.

On the 105th anniversary of the first regatta, the Viper 640 Class (VICA) with the support and blessing of the GYA are inaugurating a New England Lipton Inter-Club Challenge. Noroton Yacht Club has agreed to host the first event. We are co-operating with Seawanhaka Corinthian in designing the event for the first two years. NYC will host in 2024 and SCYC will host in 2025.

Format

The OA is NYC and VICA. The event will be held in Vipers.

The format will be broadly similar to the Lipton Cup. This is a 2-day fleet race event between clubs with each club represented by one (or two) boats.

The event is open to accredited clubs in New England (USS areas A and B), and the OA may invite up to 5 special guest clubs outside the Area. There are 41 clubs within New England with suitable credentials and sailing bench strength. Of these, 20 clubs already own Vipers.

Each club will provide their own boat. Clubs that do not own boats will be invited to charter or borrow from existing owners. An owner's representative can sail with the team of a borrowed or chartered boat. Our minimum attendance is 10 teams. Our goal is 12-15 teams. Our stretch goal is 18 teams.

Each participating team must designate a minimum of two helms per boat and helms must rotate. No helm can sail more than half of the number of races (if even number of races) Teams can change their crew and helms for different days, but the crew must remain the same during the day.

The event is open to all clubs in the region. Participants will range from the largest and most prestigious yacht clubs (New York Yacht Club has arranged to borrow a Viper) to small shacks with a flagpole nestled on a Bay in New Hampshire (Lake Winnepesaukee Sailing Association has been offered a boat) .

We aim for 3-4 races each day and a total of 8 races over the two days.

It will be a lot of fun.