

Double Bay Sailing Club hosted the inaugural Women's Laser Regatta in September. It was an event intended to encourage greater female participation in the Laser class, facilitated in an environment that was supportive, informative and fun.

50 women sailors from all over Sydney and beyond attended the weekend-long event, with yoga on the deck, breakfast eggs benedict, expert coaching, inspirational dinner speakers and competitive racing.

Participants ranged from women who had not sailed for 20 years, women who had sailed other classes but never a Laser, women whose children are rising sailing stars, and a strong contingent of those young stars themselves, along with DBSC's regular women sailors.

Five of Australia's best sailors provided coaching — Olympians Krystal Weir, Ashley Stoddart, Jaime Ryan and Karyn Gojnich, and twice Australian National Youth Champion, Marlena Berzins, a DBSC member.

It was an incredible image to see 50 boats bunched together racing against the iconic backdrop of the Harbour Bridge, their sailors popping colour in their bright pink Musto vests.

DBSC would like to thank the event's numerous sponsors for their incredible generosity. The NSW/ACT Laser Association was proud to contribute funding towards the cost of coaching. The event also received grants from the NSW State Government and Woollahra Municipal Council.

Most of the non-regular sailors who participated said they will resume regular sailing at their local clubs, and five said they will join DBSC. DBSC is a volunteer-run club open to all members of the community. It's regular Saturday afternoon races host the largest fleet of Lasers in Australia.