

What is Power Yacht Time Trialling?

Time trialling is a boating activity run by yacht clubs on the Swan River and available to any members with a craft capable of navigating at a speed between 5 and 15 knots under engine power. Family participation is possible as two people are required, a skipper and a navigator, and it provides an excellent opportunity to:

- Use your boat during the winter season.
- Learn the navigational marks and hazards.
- Learn the capabilities of your boat.
- Familiarise yourself with the local waters.

A time trial event involves sailing and accurately maintaining a predetermined course at a nominated speed between fixed marks on the river. Sailing instructions are available prior to the event and courses must be followed at the speed nominated by each competitor.

After starting at their allocated time, time checks are taken on each competitor at the start, finish and at a number of undisclosed checkpoints around the course. One point is lost for each second a competitor is early or late at these check points. Penalties can be applied for obvious changes from a competitors nominated speed or diversions from course. Time errors are cumulative. Being early at one checkpoint is not cancelled by being late at another. The winner is the competitor with the least points lost.

Equipment required for the event is a timing device (clock) and sailing instructions that include a course sheet and possibly a chart if you don't know the course.

Preparation involves calculating your ETA at all the marks along the course from your respective start time.

Most events last between thirty minutes and two hours depending on a competitors nominated speed and the length of the course. The variation in weather, wind, tide and the wash from other boats cause a never ending change to conditions under which events are conducted. To those participating regularly, a challenge is provided to master these variations, and in doing so, improve their boat handling and navigation skill. The fellowship of other competitors, particularly in interclass events, adds considerably to the further enjoyment of power yachting.

Claremont Yacht Club establishes a handicap for each of our members competing and events are not necessarily won by the most experienced power yacht crews. Following competition on the course, vessels frequently get together on the river (raft up) to share experiences and discuss memories and technical points. In this way, new skippers and navigators are able to develop their skills as well as enjoy social interaction

TIME TRIALLING IS FUN.....there really is no secret to it. You do not have to be a mathematical wizard or genius. You do not need 100,000 miles of experience in your boat and reams of figures. All you really need is the desire to join in with a fine group of yachtsmen like yourself as you enjoy using your boat during the contest and sharing in good fellowship afterwards.