

This report by Sarah Black (Hunters Mum).

In late March Sam & Hunter were selected by ballot to represent the Waimakariri Sailing Club in the Sail GP RS Feva Inspire Programme. It was on a scaled back version from last year but was still a healthy sized fleet of 25 boats from both the North & South island. Hunter & Sam were very lucky to have a charter boat provided by the Lyttleton Sea Scouts based in Cass bay.

Thursday was a practise session day and to get a feel for the boats and other crews! After some rigging and trimming tips from performance coach Andrew Brown it was on to the water for more coaching from Sam Mackay YNZ youth coach and also brother to Liv Mackay!

Friday was first day of racing which saw five races back to back in a 10-15kt southerly, with a Sail GP helicopter hovering above made it hard to hear the start sequence. Best race was 16th and then gear failure with a broken tiller extension. Thanks to Oborn's Nautical for getting it fixed ready for racing the next day. Sam, Shane & Lisa stayed on for the BBQ and got to meet some of the Black Foil sailors.

Day two of racing and Saturday dawned clear and no wind. Postponement flag up until 12pm and then racing got underway with 2 races completed before it was time to be off the water. 11th was the best today.

Sam & Hunter got to visit the Sail GP village as part of their tech tour and were pumped to watch F50's sail but unfortunately Sail GP racing was abandoned due to dolphins on the course.

Sunday was more overcast with a bit more breeze, 3 races today with 8-10kts nor 'easterly. Best today of 20th with Sam & Hunter getting some great starts and more speed upwind to the first mark. F50's were racing today and Hunter & Sam got to watch from the water thanks to the support ribs who took them out.

Hunter & Sam would like to thank their parents, Shane & Lisa, Sarah & Nick for letting them have time off school, transporting them to and from Lyttelton for practise and Sail GP, and for buying them bacon butties.

They would also like to thank Shane, Lisa & Pam for all their on water support & coaching and to the Waimakariri Club for the use of Waimak 2.

Also thanks to their on land support crew of Murray, Heather, Jo & Cameron and any one else who came and visited and said hi.

