

Otago IOM Radio Control Yacht Championships
at
Vauxhall Yacht Club, Upper Otago Harbour, Dunedin. 9th-10th April

This is only the second time we have held the Otago IOM Championships at Vauxhall Yacht Club and each time we learn more about how to achieve the best from this venue. As you may be aware, we usually sail at the Southern Reservoir which is only 10 minutes away. While this is a picturesque place to sail, most the time it suffers from low changing wind conditions. Vauxhall on the other hand, is usually windy from the NE or SW allowing for more constant sailing conditions. A special thanks goes out to Vauxhall Yacht Club for allowing the ORYC to sail at their venue.



Both Saturday and Sunday were sunny and produced great sailing conditions with a light chop on the harbour earlier in the morning followed by lighter winds as the day progressed. Competitors had to change from 'B' rig to 'A' as the wind conditions lightened. This year the best improvement was the recent removal of a decapitated wharf which projected out into the harbour cutting the race area in half. Two races were held back to back followed by a 5 minute break to tweak yachts, then repeat, achieving 19 races over Saturday. By Sunday at 1pm we had achieved 30 races in total so fired up the BBQ for lunch and prize giving.

While registrations were down to 9 this year, that did not stop us having some fun racing, and for many, a new experience dealing with the Otago harbour chop. At times, wind puffs combined with waves, made for some exciting downwind legs. It was also a test on sailing gear with many requiring a break to fix boat issues.



It was not surprising to see Rick Cassels-Brown and Alex Bruce setting the standard early in the weekend but this did not stop others making good placements throughout the weekend. We are a small club with a big heart so a shout out to our helpers including race officer Merv Read. Special thanks to Stephen Champion, Nigel Sibun and Rick Cassels-Brown for making the trek to Dunedin for this competition.

Russell Phillips,

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