

## Race Officers Report

DF65 National Champs 2023- held at Wattle Farm Ponds, Auckland

22 entries, with visitors from Wellington, Waiheke Island, Taupo and Tauranga

Saturday forecast was Easterlies 15kn, gusting 27kn- quartering down the lake. The top marks were set 50-60m out in the lake, with the bottom marks close in to the shore, with both ends using inside-out gates.

For the first few races skippers elected to use either A+ or A Rigs, with a smattering of B Rigs from the not-quite-so-confident progressively filtering in. The occasional bullet at the top end of the wind scale made the choice of rigs difficult, but it was surprisingly even performance for the spread of rig selections. Saturday results often showed a mix of rigs finishing in the top 3, with a couple of races having one of each (A+, A, B) taking the podium positions.

The conditions were gusty and shifty, with 20 deg shifts (although these were typically cyclic), and boats could beat up either side of the course and still come together at the top.

The top 3 skippers showed out early, with Reubin Muir, Graeme Roberts and Mike Calkoen sharing wins and always within a couple of points of each other. Saturday ended with ReubinM in the lead by one point, from GraemeR in second, in turn 1 point ahead of the third placed MikeC.

Sunday dawned with similar (slightly windier) conditions, and B Rigs were suddenly a lot more popular, and GraemeR's C rig even appeared at one point – coming in third for that race.

In the end Reubin Muir climbed away, eventually winning the National Champs by a healthy 8 points, with Graeme Roberts second, one point ahead of Mike Calkoen (they were on equal points going into the last race).

Many thanks to the scorers and helpers, especially starter/coordinator Ross McClew, to Kerry Earl and Gavin Gilmer (and Fulton Hogan) for supplying the tents and BBQ both days...and for mowing the pitch to remove the goose droppings (and from the number of feathers lying around -maybe a goose or two!)

Well done to the Podium winners – well deserved, and thankyou to the sailors all, with few raised voices and/or protests, all turns completed without (too) much grumbling and an air of bonhomie within this group of competitors that is to be commended.



Ian Westlake

Race Officer – 2023 NZ DF65 National Championship.