

## Magical Marbleheads

### New Year's Resolution – buy a Marblehead

There it is - I have done the thinking for you and sorted the new year's resolution which all experienced RC sailors should seriously consider.

I have been sailing IOMs for 6 years and thoroughly enjoying the experience; whether competing at club level or at some of the many regattas around the country. Fat Boy and Classic regattas are a fun and low-cost addition to the IOM scene.

So, that was me, happily sailing IOMs and Electrons and then .....

The Marblehead class had gone into recession with Covid and was in danger of being forgotten. Wattle Farm agreed to run a North Island Champs in April 2023 to re-start the class. We had eleven entries but only 9 turned up. There was some great sailing but a high attrition rate as none of the boats had been sailed for a few years. I went along to watch the racing and thought that if I bought a cheap boat then there could be 10 starting. Check out the video [2023 Marblehead NI Champs](#).

Terry Valder had borrowed a boat from Graham Clough and was soon hooked on the Marblehead Class. He has since bought the boat. Terry provided the spark to reinstate regular Marblehead racing at NSRYS.

I held out for a couple of months – 'didn't need another boat', 'too big to transport and store.' What a load of bollocks!

Terry twisted my arm – threatened to cut me off from all communications – so that eventually I negotiated to buy a Brad Gibson 'Indie' boat (#05) from Bill Bradley.

The IOMs x 3 are still my 'go to' boats but to quote Terry – 'stepping up to the Marblehead is like moving from a Paper Tiger to an A Class cat'.

Now, sailing the Marblehead is the highlight of my week. Competitive or not, they just move so gracefully through the water and when the breeze gets up the performance is phenomenal. They fly upwind and then really take off down wind – you need to run or at least walk fast to line up for the bottom mark.

So, to sum up – if you have spent some seasons learning to sail an IOM properly then you owe it to yourself to try the Marbleheads.

New boats can be expensive with up to 6 rigs but you don't need that to be competitive and have a lot of fun. There are a several good boats in storage around the country which can be purchased for a reasonable sum. These boats need to be sailing and I strongly encourage you, the experienced IOM sailor, to try Marblehead sailing – you owe it to yourself!

The active fleet is currently Auckland based with 8 to 12 boats sailing regularly at 'The Quarry' (NSRYS) on Sunday afternoons and regattas are planned for Wattle Farm and The Quarry later this year.

Jump in now, buy a boat and get it sorted in time for these regattas.

The Marblehead Class is the F1 of radio sailing and cannot be left to quietly disappear.

Basic specs – LOA 50 inches (1290mm); sail Area 800 square inches; draft Approx 650mm; weight <5kgs

Ross McClew

For more information contact:

Ross McClew 0276299164 (NMMS Wattle Farm Sailing)

Terry Valder 0212603109 (NSRYS)

