

Day 1

21 highly enthusiastic and finely tuned DF65 yachts (and entrants) descended on the picturesque Winstone Lake in Otaki for the DF65 Nationals, hosted by the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club over the weekend of 19/20 October 2024.

As well as a large contingent of locals, the fleet was bolstered by entrants from New Plymouth, Nelson and Auckland.

All eyes were on three in-form sailors – locals Mike Calkoen and Graeme Perry, as well as current DF95 National Champion Chris Wischnowsky from the mighty 'Naki who was hoping to add the silverware to the Ranfurly Shield Trophy cabinet.

After a short postponement – the westerly sea breeze arrived allowing 20 races (and several false starts!) to be completed.

The pundits had it spot on at the end of the day with Chris W leading the event after Day one – some 7 points ahead of both Graeme and Mike tied for 2nd and third. Some great racing was taking place throughout the fleet. Using the Heat Management System (HMS), several skippers spent a lot of time bouncing between the two fleets and were definitely getting their monies worth of sailing.

A very satisfied fleet adjourned to various locations for a cooling beverage, and wild anticipation of hopefully the last Americas Cup Racing

Day 2

In true Kapiti style – we all arrived to find a promising easterly – which died on cue as the briefing began. A small postponement meant time to finish the morning coffee and discuss the sensational Team New Zealand victory while the breeze filled and the real racing began.

Special mention to Neil Gibbons must be made at this point. The sailors and Race Management Team lost count of the exact number of races sail number 262 competed in thanks to the HMS system – but he always seemed to be on the water racing.

At the sharp end a few interesting results saw the overnight leaders spending at least one race in the B fleet over the contest. No-one had any idea just who was in the lead, and what the points were.

After a further 14 races were completed for both fleets, time was called just before 3.30pm.

It was Chris Wischnowsky who emerged as the DF65 National Champion, from Graeme Perry and Mike Calkoen rounding out the podium. Great battles took place across the fleet.

Full results can be found [here](#) and some great photos are posted on the KRYC [facebook](#) page.

As always – a huge thanks to the Club for having me as your RO, to the other volunteers for your efforts, and of course the sailors for allowing me to do my job for you all.

Paul Davies aka PJD

The RO