

Day 1

Sailors from as far north as the Bay of Islands and from the South Island arrived at Winstone Lake in Otaki for the 2024 Murray Rountree IOM Regatta – hosted by the Wellington Radio Yacht Club on the weekend of the 16th and 17th November 2024.

An earlier start time meant that the southerly breeze present when the fleet arrived in the morning meant that racing could get underway on time.

With the wind direction meaning the top mark was challenging to judge laylines, the RO went “old school” – setting an Olympic-style triangle/windward leeward course.

It was definitely B rig weather – and those who say IOM’s don’t like reaching missed watching some GREAT boat speeds and surfing and action (questionable at times!) at the gybe mark.

After 9 races – an early call was called for the day. Leading the charge at the top of the leader board were Erle Williams and Roddy Booth (KRY5) along with Wellingtonians Mike Calkoen (Kapiti) and John McPherson (Wellington).

Day 2

The fleet arrived bright and early for another early start. The breeze was still predominantly from the south – but with a forecast change to the NW during the morning.

A brave call from the yours truly to “hurry up and wait” meant a few extra coffees were consumed, yachts were tuned to within a millimeter of their life – and many a story was shared.

True to form, the Kapiti sea breeze kicked in – a course was set – and racing was on.

A few overeager starters meant the dreaded black flag was brought out as a behavioural tool, which on the whole worked well.

After a further 8 races were completed, the last race of the event (R17) was started under Black Flag at 2.59pm, a mere minute before the cut off time.

After racing, it was Roddy Booth (KRY5) sailing his V10 who took home the 2024 Murray Rountree IOM Regatta 10-points clear of Mike Calkoen (Kapiti) in his V11. It was close for 3rd with Jon McPherson (Wellington) only 1 point ahead of Erle Williams.

Photos by Glenn Syman can be found [here](#) and the results are on the NZRYA website [here](#).

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