

Two International One Metre Regattas Held in Victoria Sept. 11 and 12, 2021

Report by Martin Herbert, Can 38

The International One Metre fleet held two events at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club this weekend. On Saturday was the third Coastal Cup Regatta and on Saturday and Sunday was the Wooden IOM National Championships.

Fourteen boats took part in the event, with eight wooden boats competing in the Nationals. Our current top ranked IOM sailor, Peter Grimm from Vancouver, imported a beautiful wooden boat from New Zealand so that he could take part in both events, so the stage was set for a hard fought series. As the number two ranked sailor, I was sailing my own designed and built boat, but I was confident because I had a secret weapon. My advantage was that I had two great sailors, Greg Slakov and Paul Faget, who had been training with me for several months. I had learned a lot from them and felt ready for battle.

The first day the winds were light and kept the racers and the race committee on their toes. We only got in seven races but I was in good form and won the Coastal Cup Regatta and led the wooden boat fleet, counting six firsts and dropping another first. Day two had more wind but equally as shifty. Peter Grimm was settling in to his new boat and starting to apply pressure. Also coming on strong was another sailor familiar to SSI sailors, Steve Kibble, getting strong results from a rather old boat. The race committee did a stellar job and we got in a further 20 races. They were tight and fun with often the first two or three boats finishing overlapped. In the end, I held onto my lead and won the Nationals. Thanks, Greg and Paul!

Our boats spent the evening in the dining room of the RVYC for a 'Show and Shine' event where club members could vote on the best-looking boat. My friend David Cook won by a landslide, even getting my vote. He designed his own boat as well and it was a sweet shape. She also featured pin strip planking, rigs built by Peter Grimm and varnish work by me. Well done, David. Two of my boats tied for second place, so that capped off my weekend.

Here is a shot of my boat. She has mahogany topsides and trim with Beech decks and yellow and red cedar planking.

Our sailing club will be hosting the next Coastal Cup event on October 23rd and 24th—spectators welcome.

