

# IOM Nationals Report

April 28-30, 2023

by *Martin Herbert*

Our lovely SISC has successfully hosted another National Championship IOM Regatta and has again lived up to its reputation as a premier racing venue.

Day 1 was light and tricky wind. Day 2 was a perfect SE breeze with sun. Day 3 was overcast with a building breeze that sent the fleet into B rig for some exciting wavy races. In short we had it all. As the regatta overlapped with our Opening Day and Commodore's Sail-Past, the fleet of 36 boats sailed by our Commodore stationed on the dock to show their appreciation then gathered on the lawn for this group shot.



Our club had four sailors representing us and they all did us proud. Mark Wallace lead the first race until late in the last leg and took 2nd place. In race 4 Gyle Keating nailed the start and lead at the first mark and hung on to second. In race 9 Paul Faget took first place with some beautiful sailing on the last leg. In race 12 Martin Herbert managed to win a nail-biter in the last two boat lengths.

Americans took the first two places overall with Mark Golison winning the championship. Top Canadians were Peter Grimm in 3rd, Martin Herbert in 6th and Peter Stevens in 9th. Paul Faget was 12th, Gyle Keating was 26th and Mark Wallace was 30th, having had electronic issues.

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The event also included the National Championships for Wooden IOMs. Our club had two entrants in a field of seven and took 1st and 2nd place. Vancouver's Jason Rhodes was 3rd, Steve Kibble was 4th and David Jensen from Seattle took 5th.



Above is a shot of Paul Faget in 121 battling Jason Rhodes in 34. Paul went on to secure 2nd place overall and had a brilliant last race.

My last day was not spectacular but I managed to hang on to win the wooden boat regatta, defending my title.

To the right, tired but happy.



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The club supplied excellent support boat work in the hands of Rhys Parry, whose boat handling and positive spirits were noted by competitors and race officers alike. Douglas Woolcock put in a full day of scoring and then working in the kitchen. Meals were catered by Rosemary Harbrecht with the able support of April Faget, Lawrence Stuart, Greg Slakov and Douglas. The Californians lined up to get a photo op with Rosemary, as she has a deep connection with the Richmond Yacht Club and Bay Area sailing.

Bob Jones and his crew wrangled parking on the Opening Day overlap and made sure everything went smoothly for arrivals and departures. Silk Questo and Suzanne Ambers provided excellent logistical support and were invaluable in making the connections run like clockwork. Bo Curtis worked hard on finding places for incoming competitors who came in big boats and the club members were very helpful in fitting everyone into the docks. Bo's welcoming attitude and smiling face set the tone for the regatta. Our club can be very proud of our board and members for their support of this event. Their work is much appreciated.