

Scottish District IOM Travellers at Levenhall RYC, 11th March 2017

Race report by Richard Ennos

The first event of the Scottish Travellers IOM series for 2017 attracted eighteen skippers with fifteen from six of the Scottish District clubs together with three raiders from Killingworth south of the border.

The wind was light and in a SSW direction making course setting tricky, especially positioning a start line so that it could be judged, but also be sufficiently distant from the windward mark to stretch out the fleet before the first rounding. The event was sailed with two fleets to keep incidents to a minimum and reduce the fear factor for those competing in a Travellers event for the first time.

The seeding races were won by current Scottish District IOM champion Ian Dundas and home skipper Robert Brown. Sailing was unfortunately interrupted at the end of race two by a lengthy protest but resumed to allow four races to be completed before the break. There were numerous wind shifts and changes of place on the long beats and many were caught on the wrong side of the course after apparently being in a very good position.

Patrick Johnson and Steve Taylor showed their light weather skills in winning races 3 and 4 respectively while Simon Robinson and John Owens were posting some consistently low scores. In the race after lunch Ian Dundas took a trip to B fleet and failed to get out at the first time of asking denting his prospects of winning. At this point a break was called to allow those who had been yo-yoing between A and B fleets to recover. During the break the wind shifted 180 degrees such that on resumption very little tweaking was needed to allow the original course to be sailed but in the opposite direction. As the breeze fell away the V8s of Roger Ellington and Simon Robinson showed some impressive speed and the Killingworth duo posted a one two in the final drifting race.

The overall results were very tight, with seven points covering the first five places. Steve Taylor on 13 points took the regatta from Simon Robinson on 14 points and Ian Dundas on 17 points. One of the most striking aspects of the results was that four of the first five yachts were wooden, all constructed to a very high standard and showing that given the right design and the right skipper it is still possible to build your own International One Metre and win a regatta.

Race Team: Richard Ennos (RO), John Handley, John Wyllie, Nick Cowern, Tom Milne, Douglas Thornton

Overall results :

Pos	Skipper	Club	Sail #	Design	Uncorrected	Corrected
1	Steve Taylor	Aberdeen	43	Corbie 5	25	13
2	Simon Robinson	Killingworth	73	V8	28	14
3	Ian Dundas	Aberdeen	38	Corbie 5	35	17
4	Patrick Johnston	Ayr Bay	44	Britpop	43	18
5	John Owens	Aberdeen	33	Corbie 5	32	19
6	Brian Summers	Tayside	7	Buzz III	47	29
7	Robert Brown	Levenhall	26	Britpop	52	31
8	Robert Rooney	Paisley	71	Topico	56	36
9	Bruce Davidson	Ayr Bay	143	Ska	71	41
10	Roger Errington	Killingworth	5	V8	76	44
11	Gordon Allison	Ayr Bay	62	Britpop	76	50
12	Sandy Mackay	Kinghorn	58	Pikanto	89	61
13	David Stewart	Tayside	30	Britpop	97	66
14	David Smith	Paisley	89	Kite	104	73
15	Geoff Martindale	Killingworth	41	Stealth	106	73
16	Gordon Neil	Ayr Bay	50	Skeigh	116	78
17	Keith Hull	Ayr Bay	67	Pikanto	124	86
18	Ken Hathaway	Ayr Bay	132	Pikanto	139	101