

Scottish District 2021 Travellers 2 (10 July 2021) - Race Report

Report by David Williams (Tayside RSC)

Ten skippers attended the 2021 Scottish District IOM Travellers 2 event at Forfar Loch on Saturday 10th July 2021. The event was hosted by Tayside RSC who implemented Covid measures for the day. Although this was the Scottish District IOM Travellers 2 event, it was actually the first IOM Travellers event of 2021 given that the Travellers 1 event could not proceed as scheduled due to Covid restrictions.

Following the Skippers Briefing it was "Boats on the Water" promptly at 10:00am. The day was overcast with a better than expected light ENE breeze down the loch. This gave the race team under RO Boyd Baird a simple task of setting a long leeward-windward course.

Race #1 was won by Richard Rowan (sailing his Cheinz) who had travelled up from the west coast of Scotland and 2nd, 3rd and 4th were Ian Dundas, Steve Taylor and John Owens from Aberdeen MYC. These four skippers also shared the top four positions in Race #2 closely followed by Sandy Mackay (Kinghorn RSC). In Race #3 Gordon Rae (Ayr Bay) sailing his new Venti joined the top group with a 4th place and in Race #4 the top three positions were all wooden Corbie designs – 1st was Steve Taylor with a Corbie 5, 2nd was David Stewart with a Corbie 1 and 3rd was Ian Dundas with a Corbie 6.

Race #5 was again a tussle between Richard Rowan and the Aberdeen skippers closely followed by the woodies of Ian Davidson, David Stewart and Colin McGinnis. Throughout the fleet there was close but very fair racing and positions were easily lost through slight misjudgements or hard gained through correctly reading the shifts.

As the day progressed, the weather became brighter and the breeze began to swing more southerly and slightly increased although it could also have significant lulls. This created challenges for the race team to set a good beat. Eventually a zig-zag course was set with two beats and a long reach back to the leeward mark. This was also challenging for the skippers to judge when to tack around the distant marks, avoid the holes and spot the lifts to the marks.

In these conditions, Steve Taylor was consistently doing well. However, he could not relax as Ian Dundas continued to snap at his heels and good results were being recorded across the fleet. Following technical difficulties in the morning, Colin McGinnis made gains in the afternoon coming 1st and 2nd in Races #9 and #10 and Gordon Rae was 1st and 2nd in Races #10 and #11.

In all, thirteen races were enjoyed in a friendly spirit with dominance being shown by the Aberdeen MYC members from the start. Ultimately, the results were 1st Steve Taylor, 2nd Ian Dundas and 3rd Richard Rowan beating John Owens on countback. The prizes were presented by the Race Officer Boyd Baird to Steve Taylor and Ian Dundas. The Tayside RSC race team were wholesomely thanked for running a superbly organised event at this excellent venue.