

Scottish District 2022 Wooden Hull IOM Championship (16th April 2022)

Race Report and pictures by David Williams (Tayside RSC)

This uniquely Scottish IOM event was hosted by Tayside Radio Sailing Club at their home venue of Forfar Loch. The boats entered are home built with 75% of the fleet to designs largely developed by Ian Dundas (Corbie) and Brian Summers (Buzz). Ian Dundas sailed his latest creation, "Fat boy", the boat representing an impressive level of skill in its construction.

Following the Skippers' Briefing, Boyd Baird and Ralph Knowles got the racing underway at 10.00hrs. The weather was pleasant with a light wind from the east allowing a windward-leeward course with spreader marks to be set for the twelve competitors.

Due to a major wind shift to the west, the second race was again on the rectangular course but in the opposite direction. The light breeze fell to nothing during the race leaving the fleet struggling to reach the finish line. An early lunch break was called. Nobody raised a voice against this as the Forfar Sailing Club lunches were keenly anticipated. These fulfilled their promise and were thoroughly enjoyed!

The forecast from the many onsite sources (mobile phones) promised a F3 southerly and indeed this materialised following the lunch break. A southerly wind at Forfar Loch generates gusts and wind shifts calling for considerable skill (and sometimes luck) in making gains. This being so, a zig zag course was set giving two reasonable windward legs on a two-lap circuit. The breeze remained in this quarter for the remainder of the afternoon.

The racing conditions called for considerable concentration with Brian Summers, Ian Dundas, Ali Law and Malcom Worsely maintaining lead positions in the fleet for most of the afternoon. Other competitors, notably John Owens and Richard Rowan finished the day separated by a single point. Roger Edrington, who had travelled from Blyth in Northumberland, gained two second positions and one third. This is commendable given a first experience of the southerly breeze at Forfar Loch.

The whole eleven races were conducted in a spirit of friendliness, no more so, than when a prize winner donated his bottle of wine to Rodger Edrington.

The overall winner of the 2022 Wooden Hull IOM Championship was Brian Summers in his Buzz3 who received a bottle of wine and the coveted silver Quaich. Ian Dundas and Ali Law finished second and third respectively.

Many thanks to the members of Forfar Sailing Club for the use of their facilities and providing catering which, as always, was wholesome and enjoyed.