

2026 MYA Scottish District IOM Traveller 1 - 18th April 2026

Race Report by Brian Summers

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Hosted by Tayside Radio Sailing Club at Forfar Loch, the first MYA Scottish District IOM Travellers event of 2026 was held. Twelve skippers assembled for the event from five clubs all over Scotland and one skipper from the south of England. A range of IOM designs and construction were entered - some were fibre glass (Cheinz 2, Venti, BritPop!), some wooden (Buzz 3, Corbie 6 and Reason) and some 3D printed (Alioth and Proteus).

As the 11.00 start time drew near, was it A or B rig in the westerly breeze? For the first races the fresh westerly breeze was right on the cusp between A and B with lulls favouring the A rig and the downwind gusts favouring the B rig. Following the 10:45am skippers' briefing by RO Ralph Knowles, it was decision time for the skippers as to which rig to use for the long windward - leeward course. Some chose the A rig and others the smaller B rig with both being right some of the time but of course neither being correct all the time.

The first race was won by Ted Johnson sailing a BritPop! with a B rig. The following three skippers (Gordon Allison, Ian Dundas and John Owens) were all using the A rig. Race 2 was won by Ian Dundas followed by Brian Summers and Colin McGinnis all with A rigs. Race 3 saw some gusts which sometimes overpowered those with A rigs on the downwind legs. However, good sailing technique could sometimes help manage the situation. The race was won by Brian Summers followed by John Owens and Ian Dundas.

Race 4 was similar and won by Ian Dundas followed by Brian Summers and Gordon Allison - 3D printed Proteus hulls taking second and third. Race 5 saw more heavy gusts. Ted Johnston and Colin McGinnis came first and third with their B rigs and John Owens was second with his A rig. However, the breeze had clearly strengthened and nearly all the fleet changed to the smaller B rig to manage the wind and the increasing wave size.

As the morning progressed, the wind continued to gradually increase resulting in the whole fleet using B rigs and great sailing conditions. By lunch, with 8 races having been sailed, four skippers had recorded wins, six skippers had secured at least one top three place and nearly every skipper had secured a top half of fleet race position. It was clear that in this competitive fleet, nobody could relax.

An excellent lunch was provided by Forfar Sailing and Watersports Club - choice of home-made soups, savoury rolls and superb home. Following lunch, the race team kept things rolling along at a good pace with only one minor course change needed throughout the day. Regrettably, Malcolm Stewart had to retire from the event soon after lunch. Richard Ennos, with his home designed and built wooden Reason IOM, continued to challenge for places against more established designs. It was good to see David Levison, David Redpath, David Stewart and Bob Wilson continuing to race throughout the day in the very testing conditions recording top half of fleet positions.

As per the morning session, Ian Dundas was consistently recording race wins, podium finishes and did not post a result outside the top half of the fleet. Brian Summers was also sailing consistently well as were John Owens, Ted Johnson and Gordon Allison (who unfortunately missed two races due to a rig failure). Mid-afternoon, a break was held to enjoy even more exceptional catering provided by Forfar Sailing and Watersports Club.

By the end of the event, 15 races were completed and thus just two discards from the total race scores. Ian Dundas was the clear winner from Brian Summers 3D printed Proteus which seemed to have an upwind advantage but Ian used the superior downwind speed of his Australian designed Cheinz 2 to come out on top. John Owens made up the podium sailing into third spot with his Spanish designed Venti. Not to be outdone in a competitive days racing, Ted Johnston, Gordon Allison and Colin McGinnis scored first places.

After the results had been announced, Ian thanked Tayside Radio Sailing Club and their Race Team along with his fellow competitors for contributing towards a great day's racing. He also thanked Forfar Sailing and Watersports Club for the use of their facilities and the excellent refreshments.