

2026 MYA Scottish District DF65 Championship Report by Simon Thomson

Greenock Model Yacht and Power Boat Club hosted the 2026 MYA SD DF65 Championship and the DF65 Open Regatta at Murdieston Dam on the 29th and 30th August 2026. The event drew six skippers from three different clubs in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It was held in bright sunny conditions and, despite the distinct lack of wind before the scheduled start time, the wind gods played ball with light North-East to East winds of 4 knots filling in for the morning session.

Before lunch, eight races were sailed on short-windward leeward courses. These proved to be tricky with subtle and sometimes quite large wind shifts resulting in three different skippers taking 1st places but also large scores for all. Ted Johnston managed to top the leaderboard proving to be the most consistent. Second to fifth place were separated by just 1 point each with Danny Sinclair in 2nd, Richard Rowan in 3rd, Gordon Allison in 4th and Ian Davison in 5th.

The afternoon session began with the wind switching 180 degrees to the south-west with the same wind speed. The Race Officer kept to the short windward-leeward format to ensure a good number of races were completed.

Robin Gray, having travelled from Northern Ireland, got off to a fast start recording a 1st in Race 9. In subsequent races, Richard Rowan began to find form as he put together a series of good scores which rapidly started to close the gap with the leading skipper. Unfortunately, Ted Johnston and Danny Sinclair did not maintain their consistency in the equally tricky conditions.

After sixteen races with light and tricky winds and with three discards, Richard Rowan was declared the 2026 MYA Scottish District DF65 Champion. Gordon Allison kept his consistency throughout the afternoon session to take second place with Ted Johnson third. Overall, five skippers recorded 1st places throughout the event.

Unfortunately, the Greenock MYPBC Open regatta had to be cancelled on Sunday due to lack of wind after 3 hours of waiting. The event is looking to be rescheduled for later in the year.

Thanks go to the travelling skippers from Northern Ireland for supporting the event and to the race team of YT Chow and Simon Thomson.