

The Great 2010 Easter Regatta

Report by Ally Boocock

Where do I start? Is it with the great works of Sue, Robin and Luffy?

Is it the great volunteers?

Is it the great racing venue?

Or is it the 150 or so, boats and crews competing?

Well, if it wasn't for the very, very hard work from Sue, Robin and Luffy, the regatta would not have been so well organised. In fact we were getting comments that as it was so well organised, there will be an anticipated 200 boats next year! (This should also include the 'Spare Parts Person' who spent hours over a hot sewing machine and was also prepared to put her life on the line in Workforce)

Then there were all the other volunteers. Some were there for the whole regatta and more, some came when they could, some donated their boats, some were not into sailing, but all were very much appreciated for their happy professional attitudes.

The great racing venue was demonstrated on Sunday when as well as heavy winds, the seas in Comet Bay were confused and lumpy. Race Management on the Alpha Course decided that the Green Fleet for the Opis could race in the 'Duck Pond' The competitors from other clubs were a bit dubious about this, but soon started enjoying the close racing, as did the multitudes of spectators lining the jetties. It was a sight to see, and I do believe that the kid's skills improved through the day.

MOFSC had boats competing on all the courses with some doing well and some having a go (which was better than me) Saturday and Sunday were windy and Monday was light and variable.

The Bravo course was half way to Africa but this did not deter our brave competitors.

The Laser Standards were represented by Dave and the Grand Master. Dave finished a creditable 10th amongst some pretty tough opposition. The Grand Master had his boom snapped during an altercation with another Laser before racing started, however I heard on the grapevine that he was glad of a chance to withdraw from racing with a valid excuse! In the Laser Radials we had Ross and Thomas. Thomas found it extra hard going as he was still recovering from a knee operation and wisely retired. But Ross managed to come 5th. Great eh!

In the 4.7s' we had Josh, Brayden, Luke, Kate Lathouras and The Kate/Steph combination. Josh did very well to come second, and the rest were in there, mixing it with the rest. I have always said that Lasers are the hardest boats to sail physically and for these guys to be out there in that weather they must be tough!!!!

The Charlie course was halfway to Rockingham and we were represented with Cherubs and a 505. Well the 505 sort of made it, but due to work commitments, Andrew could only sail on the roughest day of the regatta. With Roger still recovering from cracked ribs, it was a bit much to handle and they wisely returned to the beach before the boat could be damaged. And poor old WOP. They didn't even make it to the first start as they broke their mast. Looks like Graham and Libby will be sailing Bucket for the rest of the season?

Talking about Bucket, Simon and Michael did some impressive sailing to finish 2nd in the Cherubs giving Max and Callan some close competition. Max and Callan finished first, despite missing a race on Monday as they were too late for the start. On the Charlie course a weird phenomenon was noted. There was one support boat that managed to get to a capsizing boat before the mast hit the water. This particular gentleman even had a rhyme made up about him which goes like.....

*It's a penguin
It's a seal
Its Super Ash*

I wonder who this is?

The Alpha course had a variation of new sailors and the seasoned international sailors.

The mirrors were represented by Scott and Ben and achieved a great 1st in the first race. Well done!

The Opi gold fleet consisted of many of those international sailors and Mason came 4th, Jayden 5th and Luke 9th. Very well done guys considering the competition!

The green fleet is for the new sailors and gee did we have some talent here! Kristen came first!!!!!!!!!! Does this mean Kristen has to compete in the Gold fleet in future as she is sooooo good? Watch out boys! And then we had Isobel, Reece, Jayden, Shaka, Emily, Ashley and Ariel. Some didn't get on the water as planned as the winds were a bit intimidating, but they were there and that is what counts. There is always next time. When these guys were on course, they were impressive and you can see some talent coming through.

Mind you I did get some feedback from the finish boat on the course and it looks like we as coaches have neglected to tell our young sailors that once finished they must keep clear of the finish line. This is so other boats can finish without interference and also so the finish boat crew can concentrate on their job of finishing the correct boats. Therefore there is another rule which says in the Sailing Instructions that 'if the finish boat has the blue flag up, a competitor can ONLY cross the finish line WHEN finishing.

I also noticed some boats doing a 720 penalty instead of a 360 as was stated in the sailing instructions proving that it pays to read the sailing instructions!

Anyway, I had a great time at Easter. Caught up with old friends, made new friends, learnt new stuff, got lots of fresh air and felt satisfied that all the hard work had payed off.

Thanks everyone for the great weekend.

Hoping to see you at the OTB racing on Sunday which is the Short Course Series starting at 1pm.