



NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL
OPTIMIST NZIODA
DINGHY ASSOCIATION
WHERE THE FUTURE OF NZ YACHTING BEGINS

September 2015 e-NEWS

www.optimist.org.nz

Please place this e-NEWS on your club website and notice board

Dear Sailors and Parents,

Upcoming regattas

Stack Winter Champs

The Stack Coaching and Winter Championship is almost upon us.

1 Enter the regatta using ClubHub, for the 2015 STACK Winter Champs (2-4 October) Access the regatta page here [:http://www.murraysbay.org/murrays-bay-sailing-club/winter-champs/](http://www.murraysbay.org/murrays-bay-sailing-club/winter-champs/)

Optimist North Island Optimist NZIODA Championship

The Optimist North Island Optimist NZIODA Championship will be held in Napier from Friday 13th November to Sunday 15th November. Hosted by the Napier Sailing Club, the weekend includes a Starling Regatta and promises to be an event for the whole family.

The Championship is for Open and Green Optimist fleets with the Open fleet competition being an NZIODA ranking regatta.

The Open fleet will sail a three day regatta, starting on Friday 13th November and finishing on Sunday 15th September. The Green fleet will sail a two day regatta on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September. Green fleet sailors and families are encouraged to attend the Friday event however as there will be a training session for those who are interested in some coaching prior to the racing over the weekend.

The Notice of Race and entry form is available on the Napier Sailing Club's website: <http://www.napiersailingclub.org.nz/ni-opti-champs>





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And it's more than just sailing...Napier Sailing Club's fabulous site in Ahuriri will be the centre of the Championship and also the hub for the festivities over the weekend. On Friday afternoon after sailing there will be a 'Taste Hawke's Bay' from 4pm to 6pm where there will be the best of Hawke's Bay own food for the whole family to taste and enjoy and something stronger from the vineyards for adults. This must attend social gathering will be a great time to unwind and also enjoy the first day's prize giving.

Saturday night will be the party night with a fantastic American style spare rib roast, salads and delicious desserts. More prizes from the day's racing too.

Sunday afternoon will be the major prize giving with afternoon tea to bolster families and sailors before making their way home.

2 Calling all coaches!

An Optimist Coaching Workshop will be held between 4-7pm on 29th September at Murrays Bay Sailing Club. It will cover boat set up, hiking technique, equipment, starting and boat speed

Pre requisite: Race coach (or higher) qualified

Entry fee: \$10 (Food and memory stick provided)

Contact: Laurie Jury: 3614027/ laurie@yachtingnz.org.nz

And a word from Andrew Brown:

"As coaches we need to keep educating ourselves and improving our craft - just as we expect our sailors to do. If you are ever coaching for the Association and or overseas you need to have a type of powerboat licence, I recommend the RYA Powerboat Level 2 course for this. The Yachting New Zealand coaching courses are more on "how to coach" and the YNZ/NZIODA Optimist workshops are more on "what to coach".

If you are serious about coaching you should attend the workshop on 29 September and any others that come up. If any clubs outside of Auckland want to host an optimist workshop or want to find out more about coaching coaches then they should contact Laurie Drury at YNZ; laurie@yachtingnz.org.nz'."





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NZIODA Fees

Fees for the 2015/16 season are due and are \$40 per family. To pay click the club hub tab on the NZIODA page: <http://www.optimist.org.nz/>. Stickers will be available at the Winter Champs for those sailors that have paid.

Our teams abroad

New Zealand's top optimist sailors have been travelling the world. Reports from the Worlds, Euros and the Nams follow (the Asians reports will be in the next edition of e-news as their regatta is in October):

3 *The NZL International Yachting Trust Team at the 2015 Optimist World Championships*

This year the World Championships was held in Dziwnów Poland.

A last minute venue change meant the course was laid on the Baltic Sea rather than the inlet. At our arrival the forecast looked fantastic for the ensuing three days but it never came to pass; wind was so scarce it was a struggle to get a series after 3 days of fleet racing.

On 30 August fleet racing gave way to the teams racing regatta. Unfortunately we were unable to manage a race where we didn't have an OCS and the resultant 10-point penalty (added to our finishing place) meant our very strong team simply could not win a race.

The NZ sailors were able to enjoy a lay day while the top 16 teams spent the next day waiting in vain for wind. We ventured up to the nearest town of Szczecin (1.5 hours away) and had a fantastic day of go-karting and enjoyed food a little more reminiscent of home. The rule requiring adults and children to race separately meant none of the sailors got to show Frankie how much they could smash him by...

The final day of qualifying was NZ's strongest day with many of the team making the





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most of a strong race plan and a little more breeze. Craig managed to move up enough to make the gold fleet, William's placing improved massively allowing him to make silver fleet and Sam M had a great day with two top 10s but just missed the silver because of a BFD. Seb and Sam B also narrowly missed the silver fleet.

Due to lack of wind there was only one day in the final series. Although Craig was rewarded for his consistency earlier in the week and moved up to 61st all of the team struggled with BFDs. William end up 135th, Sam M 157th, Seb 188th and Sam B 191st.

The kiwi team was, for the most part, disappointed with the final result but in the very light breeze the team's size counted against them. All the sailors are looking forward to getting into 29ers on their return to NZ. Keep an eye out for their progress!

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The overall results can be found

here: http://www.optiworld.org/uploaded_files/Optiworlds%202015%20Results%20by%20SailingNet%20Final%20POST.pdf 2236_en.pdf

The team's videos can be seen at the links below:

Teams 1st video:

<https://www.facebook.com/NZIODA/videos/vb.235175629855380/1008844772488458/?type=2&theater>; The team rocked the opening ceremony with a great Haka to challenge to the rest of the fleet:

<https://www.facebook.com/NZIODA/videos/vb.235175629855380/1008509852521950/?type=2&theater>; The day in the life of an Opti Worlds

Sailor: <https://www.facebook.com/NZIODA/videos/vb.235175629855380/1011506632222272/?type=2&theater>; NZ Team Moving

on: <https://www.facebook.com/NZIODA/videos/vb.235175629855380/1017311381641797/?type=2&theater>

The Optimist North Americans

The Optimist North Americans (NAM's) were sailed in Antigua in July proved very successful for a young, inexperienced Kiwi team.

The team of six included three sailors for whom this was their first overseas regatta, so





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their final placing of three in Gold Fleet, two in Silver and one in Bronze is a good indication of how well the implementation of the NZ Squad Training has worked over the kiwi winter.

This year NZ were invited to send six sailors, instead of the usual 4, with a nice split of two each from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The Team consisted of Robbie McCutcheon (Wakatere Boating Club), Josh Berry (Murray's Bay), Albert Stanley (Worser Bay), Will Wright (Worser Bay). Zac Scheiwe (Charteris Bay) and Harry Corston (Charteris Bay).

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The final day was the windiest of the week with 20-25kts. Josh had his best day of the competition to post an 11th and 14th to finish 27th in Gold Fleet, Zac was solid with a 19th and 40th in the very competitive field, finishing 25th overall, and Robbie posted a great 4th in the final race, as well as a 21st, to finish 19th overall. So 3 kiwis in the top half of Gold Fleet. A Black Flag on the last day was issued to Harry, which saw him finish in 12th in Silver Fleet, with Will back in 18th. Great results for these first-timers. Albert took advantage of the breeze on the last day to post a 1st and a 3rd, unfortunately he was adjudged to be over the line early and missed out on winning Bronze Fleet, finishing 4th.

The Caribbean (although a long way from New Zealand) was a wonderful place for the sailors and parents to travel to. It was a well-run regatta, in a gorgeous location and everyone enjoyed the hospitality and the warm sea breeze.

The Optimist European Championship - Wales

Team Euro 2015 was fortunate to start their European tour in Finland where local head coach Sam McKenzie and Briar Dye-Hutchinson put together a three day, high performance opti training clinic. Based out of Helsingfors Sailing Club -located on an Island just minutes from downtown Helsinki - the team were set up with coaches, boats and some strong competition from World's and Euro team sailors to train against. To top it off Sam had arranged some fantastic Finnish sailor's parents to billet the team - the





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kindness and hospitality were second to none.

A short flight to Manchester and drive to North Wales to the Pwhelli Yacht Club followed and to be greeted by the sight of an £8m brand new yacht club was pretty amazing - even better was being able to get inside it to set the boats up and get measurement done - outside 35knot squalls, 10 degrees and horizontal rain signalled what possibly lay ahead.

Once on the water the sailors realised why the location was chosen - reliable winds ranging in strength from 8-25knots were the norm and it truly gave sailors a chance to show their skills across a range of wind and sea conditions. The team had two regattas at the same venue - the European Championship followed by the UK Nationals.

6 For the Euros, the boys and girls fleets were split and all out focus was needed from day one to ensure the best could be made of the 6 qualifying and 4 final series races. In the end Ben Paterson sailed a brilliant regatta - strong and consistent - to take out 16th in the Gold Fleet, one of the best results the kiwis have had at the Euros. Alice Haslett also made Gold Fleet and held a credible 48th. In Silver Fleet Campbell Stanton climbed steadily to take out 4th, Francesco Kayrouz 29th and Oliver Cowley 30th. A very solid all round result but more was to come.

A short break and then the UK Nationals - over 300 Optimists with a total fleet of around 180 in the equivalent of our open fleet - and where several of the European World's teams also competed. All of the kiwi sailors made gold fleet showing the value of the extended sailing and experience being gained. Oliver Cowley had a sublime regatta with no fewer than 7 top 10 placing's to give an overall 9th place, he was chased hard by Campbell Stanton who finished a very strong 10th and second in his age group. Next to follow was Ben Paterson finishing in 23rd place, Alice Haslett 32nd and Francesco Kayrouz 34th, all very solid results, well within the top half of gold fleet and amongst some top European sailors.

Our very sincere thanks to coach Briar Dye-Hutchinson, who for four weeks kept the





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learning curve steep for our sailors, challenged and focussed them appropriately and gave them all a chance to show what they can do.

The Welsh weather may not be the best for a summer holiday however the location is just great for centreboard sailing and with £8m spent on the venue, Pwhelli will be a fantastic place to sail for many years to come.

What about the rest of the season?

The 2015/2016 seasons ranking regattas are as follows:

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- North Island Champs: 13-15 November 2015 at Napier SC.
- Auckland Champs: 30 January -1 February 2016 at Maraetai SC.
- Interislander Champs: 19 February - 21 February 2016 at QCYC.
- Nationals: 25 March - 29 March 2016 at KYC.

Also:

- Pre-nats: 6 February - 8 February 2016 at KYC
- Teams racing: 7 February 2016 at KYC.

Like us, please...

Finally, please like the NZIODA facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NZIODA>. It has great information about the upcoming season and doing so will allow you to follow the 10 strong team travelling to Doha to compete in the 2015 Optimist Asian and Oceania championship and the NZIODA development team in Noumea. Go teams!

Glenn Stanley

President NZIODA glenn.stanley@me.com

