

THE 2010 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
FOR
INTERNATIONAL ONE METRE, INTERNATIONAL MARBLEHEAD AND
36" SHIPMATE CLASSES

12 to 18 September 2010

The event was held on Gariep Dam some 40km From Colesburg at the Freestate Sailing Club facilities and hosted by the Freestate Radio Sailing Club. Registration and Regatta Measurement of all classes commenced from Saturday 12 September and continued with RM and IOM measurement of any boats which were available.



36" Shipmate Championship.

There were 21 Entries with Skippers from Gauteng, Western Cape, RSKZN, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay and The Garden Route and the Freestate. Boats were divided into two fleets with promotion and relegation of four boats taking place after each heat. Each Race consisting of an "A" and a "B" fleet heat. On Sunday the 12th the first heat began in light winds but was abandoned after a short while as the wind died to nothing. After some time the heat was re-started when a light breeze filled in from the north west. By midday the wind was gusting strongly and most boats were down to their second suits providing good competitive sailing.

Monday started in the same way except the wind came through in time for the scheduled 10h00 start. As for the first day competition at the top was very close and several duals were going on lower down the fleet. The 2010 36" Shipmate S.A. Championship came to an end after 12 closely contested races.



36" Shipmate Competitors



Barry receiving his trophy

36" Shipmate Result.

- 1st Barry Loubser of Cape radio yacht Club with 19 Points
- 2nd Peter Simons of Durban radio boat Club with 27 Points
- 3rd Norrie Taylor of Durban Radio Boat Club with 32 Points

Marblehead Championship

Tuesday morning was a rush as those late arrivals had to register and have their boats through event measurement before 10h00. This class has the least number of boats in S.A. and there were 14 enthusiastic entries. The wind was very light to begin, all boats being on their top suits. However by midday the wind strength increased and became extremely gusty with speeds changing from 6knots to 20knots in the space of a few seconds. This made it extremely difficult to select the correct rig although most skippers opted for the smallest rig and hoped for a higher majority of gusts.

Wednesday began with good north westerly winds strengthening during the day and the Marbleheads were being pressed on their smaller rigs. 29 Races were sailed over the two days.



A RM taking a dive in one of many gusts



John receiving the RM Trophy

RM Class Result

- 1st. John McKerchar Northvaal Radio Sailing Club 65 points
- 2nd. Norrie Taylor Durban Radio boat Club 75 points
- 3rd. Peter Simon Durban Radio Boat Club 89 points

One Metre Championships

The IOM start was scheduled for 10h00 on Thursday. There were 29 entries and two fleets were sailed using HMS 2006 as in the 36"shipmate Class. The wind again was light to start but by midday was blowing strongly and veering all the time making course laying very difficult.

All the boats at this time were on their smallest suits of sails and sailing was very competitive

Friday and Saturday was very much the same with much time consumed in resetting the course to match the wind changes. Sailing was very close with several different skippers winning races.

Unfortunately one heat had to be re sailed as so many boats crossed the finishing line together it was impossible to record their finishing positions.

Sailing stopped at 12h30 after 18 races of two heats each sailed over the three days to enable the Bill Reynolds Inter Provincial to be sailed at 13h00.



IOM's in close competition.



Des receiving the IOM Trophy

Result

- 1st. Des Fairbank of Maritzburg Radio Yacht Club 59 points
- 2nd. Simon Clarke a visitor from the U.K. 60 points
- 3rd. Craig Richards of Cape Radio Yacht Club 62 points

Bill Reynolds Trophy

The Bill Reynolds Trophy race is an event held annually in which two skippers from each region compete in six races on the trot. This Year we Included two skippers as an international team. The two skippers were Simon Clarke and Gino Pozzobon who are South Africans at present living abroad and had specifically returned home to compete in the nationals. The Western Cape team pulled off a very good win from the International team.

Result

1 st .	Western Cape	4 th	Freestate
2 nd .	International team	5 th	Northvaal
3 rd .	KZN	6 th	Southern Cape

The weeks sailing was enjoyed by everyone and the fact that everyone was accommodated nearby made the evening social activities most enjoyable.

A big thanks must go to the organisers particularly Cobus de Beer who put in an exceptional effort to make this event the success that it was.

