

2013 Tri-Services Annual IOM Championship

The Tri-Services held their Annual IOM Championship over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 31st August – 1st September. The venue was the Gosport Sailing Club, by kind permission of the Commodore and Members of the club.

The event is open to all past and present members of the British and World Armed Forces their respective Reserve Forces and current serving civilian employees

For several weeks previously big efforts had been made by Gosport Council and the Gosport Sailing Club to remove the weed from the lake to ensure that it would be clear for the Tri-Services event.

On arrival at the Club on Friday we were greeted by the sight of Club members and Council workers frantically trying to clear the weed on the lake that had suddenly appeared literally overnight. Late afternoon saw a few of the competitors trying out the lake and apart from a few strands all seemed fine and it was hoped that the westerly wind would push the remaining floating weed to the end of the lake.

Saturday morning came and unfortunately the wind had shifted around to the North, which gave Race Officer Bill Green a real headache in setting a course. Eventually the seeding races got underway. Initially everything looked fine until a few boats suddenly came to a halt, whereas other boats blissfully sailed on. The dreaded weed had surfaced again.

This was to be the pattern for the next two races. At this point Bill had enough and moved the racing to the small lake, which did not have any weed, much to the relief of the competitors. The small lake was then used for the rest of the week end.

By the end of the day the racing proved to be close, with several different sailors featuring at the front of the fleet, with John Cleave (Navy team captain) in the lead. However all was still to play for as only 25 odd points covered the 1st nine places. However with John Taylor and Roy Stevens supporting their Team Captain the Royal Navy were taking a grip of the regatta, followed by the Army then the RAF. At the conclusion of racing most retired to the restaurant for a few beers and an excellent buffet.

Sunday morning saw a shift in lighter winds to the west, and some fickle wind shifts which made sure that nobody was assured of winning until they crossed the finish line, with several different skippers claiming first places and some interesting arguments on the water. However all disputes were settled on the water, which made it 10 years without a protest at this event. Could be a record!

At the end of the day not much had changed with the Royal Navy team continuing to do well and deservedly winning the Inter Service Trophy, with the Army 2nd and RAF 3rd.

Individually 1st Place: John Cleave. 2nd Roy Stevens. 3rd John Taylor, certainly a convincing victory for the Royal Navy.

On behalf of the association I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mervin Cooke the Commodore of Gosport YC and the Members for their valiant efforts in trying to rid the weed from the lake in order that our event could take place and for their continued support of the Tri Service Association. We look forward to seeing you again next year, if Gosport YC will have us?