

## THE RUM BUCKET 2009

Wakatere Boating Club, Narrowneck Beach, Auckland

24 & 25 October 2009

The 2009 OK Dinghy North Shore Championships were this year sailed for The Rum Bucket trophy for the first time. After the short-lived gear-smashing howler that was this year's Hurricane Classic in Wellington, the boys were looking forward to some more conventional sailing. However, as we should all have learned by now, regatta sailing is never conventional and The Rum Bucket would be no exception. We did, however, manage to get 8 hard fought races sailed in a well organised and tightly run contest.

Saturday began with a moderate sou-west breeze and, after a short briefing and powhiri and being provided with lunches for the day, the fleet headed out to the course which was set fairly close off Narrowneck and Cheltenham beaches making for great spectator viewing – and some major wind-shifts.

After two general recalls the black flag came out and Race 1 was finally started around midday with a strong pin-end bias. Karl Purdie of Wellington started at the correct end of the line and quickly took the lead, showing superior boathandling and tactics to dominate the first race. Luke O'Connell (also of Wellington), coming back into the class after a winter of battling wild cougars in the Wellington hills, showed excellent form to take 2<sup>nd</sup> while class newcomer Brad Douglas (Auckland) sailed a consistent race to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Race 2 started fairly cleanly and some big wind shifts began to come into play as the outgoing tide started to affect the left and the shoreline began to affect the right. At the first mark Dave Hoogenboom (Auckland) led from Ben Morrison (Auckland), both of them having picked up a good shift on the right at the top of the beat, following closely by Andrew Pardington (Auckland), Purdie and Douglas. The lead changed several times throughout the race but in the end Purdie's class came through and he took the race by 1 boat length from Morrison after a tacking duel on the finish. Pardington took 3<sup>rd</sup>, having been 1<sup>st</sup> at the final mark in a very good performance.

In race 3, Matt Steven (Wellington), who was 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the first two races, took an early lead and extended the whole way round the track to take a very strong win from Douglas in 2<sup>nd</sup> and current national champion Mark Perrow (Auckland) in 3<sup>rd</sup>. After a winter of coming to grips with fatherhood Perrow was starting to find his form again.

In the final race of the day Kris Decke (Auckland), another recent convert from the Laser class, took an early lead and looked to be in a strong position. However, Purdie's speed and fitness came through once more and he took the race by a large margin followed by Decke and then Paul Rhodes (Wellington).

So, at the end of Day 1, Purdie held a very solid lead with three wins and a 4<sup>th</sup>. Douglas appeared to have found form after some months getting up to speed, and was in 2<sup>nd</sup>, while Matt Steven had carded a solid day to hold 3<sup>rd</sup>.

After a gourmet BBQ dinner, The Rum Bucket was filled with premium quality rum, ice and minimal coke, and formally christened by the fleet...and then christened several more times as the night progressed.

Sunday morning began with a total absence of breeze. There were two or three conflicting wind patterns, cloud in the sky and all the hallmarks of a day spent lounging around in the sun on Wakatere's deck – not a terrible prospect by anyone's standards! However, by 12.30 a light breeze began to fill in, best described as a sou-northerly, and the fleet put to sea. Eventually a shifty, patchy westerly filled in and, with little time left before the time limit, PRO Dean Coleman embarked on a mission to complete 4 races before time ran out. With a cut-off time of 4.30pm to start a race, it was a tight schedule. As it turns out, 4 races were sailed and Dean and his committee must be commended for a great performance.

Race 5 began with many in the fleet unsure which direction to head in, and the leader after the first lap was Trent Pryce (Napier) who had brilliantly picked a monster shift and taken a huge lead, after which he relentlessly covered the fleet and completed a great win. Rhodes sailed a solid race in difficult conditions to take 2<sup>nd</sup>, while Owen Anderson (Wellington) showed that he still has a few tricks up his sleeve and pulled out a 3<sup>rd</sup> to improve his standings.

In race 6, Rhodes showed what he had learned in race 5 and took an early lead which he extended throughout the race to win by a massive margin, followed by O'Connell in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Purdie in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Not to be outdone, Purdie took control again in race 7 and led the whole way round to record his fourth win of the contest, while Perrow came through to take 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pardington sailed another strong race to take 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The final race, with the 4.20pm start just 10 minutes inside the time limit, was possibly the shiftiest of the whole contest. Huge shifts were available all over the course and places changed continually. Purdie, however, put together a textbook race to take yet another victory and claim The Rum Bucket, while young Kagan Weeks (Napier) sailed a great race to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> and Steven took 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Once the boats were packed away and the competitors had re-hydrated with some beer from the famous Wakatere beer fridge, the prizegiving was held with some superb prizes provided by Magic Marine/Kiwi Yachting, Harken/Fosters, North Sails and Southern Spars, and wine donated by the Wilde and Morrison families and Te Awanga vineyard.

In the end, Karl Purdie was deserved winner of The Rum Bucket (which was put to the test again on Sunday night). Matt Steven took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Brad Douglas was 3<sup>rd</sup> (full results below). Wakatere put on a great contest, and the biggest thanks of all must go to Principal Race Officer (and Wakatere commodore) Dean Coleman and his crew of assistants, both on and off the water.

Place	Name	Sail No.	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total
1	Karl Purdie	531	1	1	4	1	(5)	3	1	1	12
2	Matt Stevens	519	5	6	1	(9)	8	4	7	3	34
3	Brad Douglas	539	3	4	2	8	(10)	7	4	6	34
4	Paul Rhodes	517	6	(12)	10	3	2	1	10	4	36
5	Alistair Deaves	538	10	10	12	(27)	11	5	8	8	64
6	Andrew Pardington	528	14	3	11	6	(20)	8	3	20	65
7	Kris Decke	490	8	(17)	17	2	16	6	5	12	66
8	Mark Perrow	527	17	15	3	4	(25)	9	2	17	67
9	Ben Morrison	530	15	2	6	(21)	6	21	15	7	72
10	Nigel Mannering	500	12	9	5	14	13	15	6	(33)	74
11	Kagan Weeks	5	7	19	(24)	11	7	10	19	2	75
12	Owen Anderson	469	11	7	20	13	3	(25)	14	15	83
13	Luke O'Connell	511	2	11	9	12	18	2	(33)	(33)	87
14	Dan Bush	478	(23)	16	7	5	19	19	9	13	88
15	Mike Wilde	535	18	8	(21)	16	14	17	12	5	90
16	David Hoogenboom	481	21	5	23	(24)	4	20	13	14	100
17	Trent Pryce	502	13	27	16	(33)	1	23	11	16	107
18	Josh Weeks	518	19	13	13	20	(22)	13	22	9	109
19	Russell Wood	526	(26)	20	15	7	17	14	21	18	112
20	Adrian Mannering	504	9	14	8	15	24	11	(33)	33	114
21	Rob Hengst	533	20	(24)	19	19	9	24	17	10	118
22	Jono Clough	498	16	26	29	(33)	12	12	16	11	122
23	Marty Pike	536	22	23	22	17	15	18	(33)	19	136
24	Brett Graham	7	27	(28)	30	18	26	26	20	22	167
25	Adrian Coulthard	472	31	30	14	22	23	27	(33)	21	168
26	Peter Robinson	736	25	25	18	10	27	(33)	33	33	171
27	Marty Weeks	509	29	31	25	23	29	22	18	(33)	177
28	Julian Bishop	516	28	29	26	25	21	28	(33)	23	180
29	Ever Njink	515	24	22	27	32	28	16	(33)	33	182
30	Steve McDowell	525	4	18	(33)	33	33	33	33	33	187
31	Graham Lambert	493	30	21	28	33	30	29	(33)	33	204
32	Max Schlink	508	32	32	31	26	31	(33)	33	33	218



*The view of Narrowneck Beach from Wakatere Boating Club*



*Alistair Deaves on the run*



*The fleet rounds the bottom mark*