

BERMUDA INTERNATIONAL RACE WEEK

Editor's Note:

The Bermuda International Race Week was held in May of 2014, with an IOD invitational among the events. We were fortunate enough to have two of our syndicates represented there – Richard Werdiger skipper of Team ALPHA representing the Nantucket IOD fleet, and Roy Weedon Team SIERRA skipper who sailed with the Ida Lewis Yacht Club. Both submitted reports.

Richard Werdiger writes:

I was privileged to represent the Nantucket IOD Fleet at Bermuda Race Week. There were thirteen teams invited from five countries – the United States, Canada, England, Norway and Sweden. The United States had teams from San Francisco, Northeast Harbor, Newport, Marblehead and Fishers Island. There were fourteen races over five days. I had an excellent crew consisting of Peter Rugg, Sam Vineyard, Halsey Richards and Tom Wey. Peter and Halsey sail in Fishers Island, Sam sails in Marion, and Tom sails in Rye.

Roy Weedon weighed in:

I had the pleasure of co-helming the Ida Lewis Yacht Club team with Dan Faria, the Ida Lewis YC Rear Commodore, a former Bermuda International Race Week Champion and sometime Nantucket SIERRA crew.

As many of the IOD Sailors know, Bermuda is a terrific venue. The Royal Bermuda Yacht Club is located in the city of Hamilton. The 14 equally matched IOD's are docked on the floating pier in front of the club. It always gets your attention when you maneuver your boat into a dock space under the watchful gaze of Craig Davis, the Bermuda IOD Technical Officer.

Richard:

Race one was in 20-25 knots but after a squall came through the winds dropped to 4-10 knots for the next four days. The breeze was generally out of the Northwest. In the light air there were shifts of 30 to 40 degrees and the racecourse was full of "holes". We found it was critical to pick a side of the course – sailing across the middle was deadly. We finished day four in light air and had to be towed in. Finally on day five a brisk southwesterly breeze developed and we sailed the final race in sixteen to twenty knots.

The regatta was split into an "A" and "B" series and then the overall results were scored. For the "A" series, while our boat speed was okay and the crew work was excellent we were hampered by early or mediocre starts, and we tended to be on the wrong side of the large shifts. There were several races in the light conditions where we did reasonably well on the first windward leg and then found we had reversed positions with the rest of the fleet. We finally found our footing in the "B" series where our starts were good, boat speed was excellent, and we stayed in phase with the shifts. While we were mid fleet for the overall results, we were very pleased with a second place for the "B" series.

Roy:

The competition was very intense and our best results were four 2nd place

finishes. We finished third in the A-series to win the Jordy Walker Memorial Award but fell off form in the second series to finish seventh overall. Our team demonstrated our sailing skills with a very clean regatta: no protests or boat damage. We had great starts and close marking roundings.

There were five new skippers including Canadian Peter Wickwire of the relatively new Chester, Nova Scotia IOD Fleet who with 21 points handily won the prestigious Vrengen Gold Cup. Henry Arnold of Royal Thames YC fared well as runner up.

Richard:

The regatta was dominated by Peter Wickwire. Peter is the current Canadian match racing champion. He was able to maintain his lead in all wind speeds and conditions.

As always the organizers and members of the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club were wonderful hosts. Cocktails at the Yacht Club were a pleasant conclusion to each day's activities regardless of the results on the race course. The final night awards ceremony and dinner was a fitting end to a very special week. Our hosts organized a fun evening of toasts, speeches and a delightful dinner. Bermuda is one the nicest venues in the world for sailboat racing. The island, in full bloom with spring flowers, was beautiful. The people are friendly and polite. The water is a special shade of aquamarine. Finally, and to everyone's pleasure, the Dark and Stormys never stopped flowing!

**Roy Weedon, Team
SIERRA**

**Richard Werdiger, Team
ALPHA**

