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This past summer marked the 16th season for the Nantucket IOD Fleet Association. While that makes us a very new fleet compared to the other world fleets, some being in existence for more than 75 years, the fleet showed this season that they are rapidly catching up to the best of the other fleets in sailing performance. We are arguably ahead of the other fleets in the quality and equality of the boats making us among the premier IOD fleets in the world.

The local sailing season began with the Nantucket IOD Invitational. This annual event that started in 2001 is rapidly becoming a coveted venue on the IOD and other sailing calendars. It has grown tremendously in recent years to the point where the level of competition is easily the equal the IOD World Championship as

it is enhanced by also inviting accomplished sailing teams from outside the IOD class. After three days of great sailing conditions this year's winner was John Burnham of Fishers Island – a two time IOD World Champion and multiple Shields Champion.

Locally, on Sundays we generally had 10 boats on the line. The biggest change was the number of days sailed 28 vs. 17 last year. However, the competition was as close as ever with the four top syndicates locked in a season long battle for overall honors. Three other syndicates might have been in the mix as well, if they had sailed more days. Eight syndicates won at least one race and although on some days there was a clear winner, most days saw the results very mixed with a first place just as hard to come by as a fifth place. And the finishes very close including at least one dead heat finish!

All this translates into a fleet that is increasingly improving. This shows up when one looks at our performances in off island regattas. This year the NIODFA representatives won three of seven races in the 2014 Worlds Championship held in Norway. Team Delta led by Pierre Crosby finished fourth with only one point out first place because a double tie breaker was used to determine the winner. In the 2014 North Americans Invitational held in Chester, Nova Scotia, we had two teams representing Nantucket. Team Peoples led by Bobby Constable won the Championship with Team Golf skippered by Peter McCausland finishing third.

Ian McNeice, Fleet Captain