

IOD World Championships 2013

by Ian McNeice, IOD Fleet Captain

The 2013 International One Design World Championships were hosted by the Fishers Island Yacht Club this past September 15th -20th.

The Nantucket IOD Fleet was invited to send two representatives as we are now one of the largest active fleets in the world. Also our fleet loaned two boats to Fishers Island so that they would have sufficient boats to hold a complete ten boat round-robin where each team sails a different boat each race. The Nantucket representatives were the GOLF Syndicate led by Peter McCausland and the SIERRA Syndicate led by Roy Weedon.

boat handling-wise to yield a first World Championship race win for Roy Weedon. The best part about the win to me was that it was never easy and required a constant fight with two other boats to the finish.

Day three and a westerly breeze had settled in. This breeze would be with us for the rest of the week but coupled with an east flowing tide made the course rather one dimensional for the final six races of the Regatta with the right side being heavily favored due to shallower water on that side. However for the first race in these conditions, local sailor and former IOD World Champion Kevin Farrar crewing on SIERRA made the tactical call

in conditions that were becoming increasingly light, team GOLF combined a great start with an ability to find the breeze to lead from start to finish for Peter McCausland's first World Championship race win and Nantucket's third win of this Championship.

Secondly, the outcome of the Championship was down to a battle between two multiple IOD World Champions. Fishers Island sailor Charlie Van Voorhis went into the final race with a handy points lead over Bill Widnall of Marblehead. However the light conditions combined with Charlie having a spinnaker sheet touch a mark and the ensuing penalty



IOD World Championship Photos by Mary Feeny Photography . Left: GOLF Syndicate at the Worlds. Right: SIERRA at the IOD Worlds

There were ten teams contesting this World Championship and the sailing conditions were such that all ten scheduled races were completed – unusual for this locale as they are often plagued with little or no wind coupled with excessive current.

The first day of racing dawned grey and cold, with light fickle winds out of the north. It was this dying wind which was the prime factor in deciding the outcome of the first two races as a boat could be winning one minute and deep in the order the next.

Day two saw a good 15 knot breeze from the northeast that eliminated the fluky conditions of the previous day. Team SIERRA got off to a good start and sailed a solid race both tactically and

to sail all the way to the right corner out of the tide. Team SIERRA was the first boat to reach the extreme right side of the course, which translated into a sizable lead at the first weather mark. After much “looking over our shoulders” this lead was maintained for three more legs to the finish, giving SIERRA their second race win of this World Championship.

In the ensuing two days, the wind gradually moderated in strength as the temperature rose to a more typical level for mid-September. The whole Championship Fleet had now figured out which way to go on this course, putting a huge premium on a “stellar start at the boat.”

The final race of the regatta was memorable for two reasons. Firstly,

turn, led to him sailing in an increasingly defensive mode to maintain the points he needed for a Championship victory. Within 400 meters of the finish line, he got passed by two boats to allow Bill Widnall to claim his tenth World Championship! Nantucket's Team SIERRA and Team GOLF finished fifth and ninth respectively.

My takeaway from this exciting Championship is that the Nantucket Fleet is now very competitive with the other fleets in the world as demonstrated by winning three of the ten races. Consistency is what held us back from better overall results, but that will come with more experience on more competitive stages such as our own IOD Invitational each June and Nantucket's IOD Celebrity Invitational.