

The BG Sails and Design IOM GP Round 4

Koonawarra Bay

24th May 2014

May 24th saw the running of the IOM class GP4 event at Koonawarra Bay on Lake Illawarra. Koonawarra Bay is home to Koonawarra Bay Sailing Club who club race IOM & A class each Saturday & Tuesday. They are located at the end of Kanahooka Rd out on the point.

Koonawarra Bay offers open water sailing with excellent facilities, so the club usually manages to host successful events.

This was the first time Koonawarra Bay had elected to hold an IOM GP event; after much pressuring from those of us who enjoy racing there.

Congratulations to the guys for hosting the event and giving up your time, as the IOM class are looking for new venues to explore.

Difficult conditions presented themselves early in the morning. With the wind light and from out of the trees westerly, most skippers found it challenging and it was difficult for the PRO to set good courses. Ralph, Jon and the boys did their best to keep the course within eyesight. All races were standard Olympic courses with windward returns. Apart from the wind the Illawarra turned on a sunny day with plenty of public moving past the control area.

Mixed results before lunch showed no clear leader however Paul Jones and Selwyn Holland began to creep away from the field with Leigh Cooper and Garry Bromley slipping back after being forced off the water with radio problems and the loss of a rudder.

Post lunch saw a welcome return to Brian Dill's fortunes as he began to post some better results after settling into the conditions. It was good to race with Brian again and we hope we can see more of him latter in the year. Laurie Hinchcliff and Mark Wilson also began a strong come back to challenge the leading two for a place after replacing some of their radio gear.

Paul Jones (25pts) managed to have some luck combined with consistency and held out Selwyn Holland (39pts) and Laurie Hinchcliff (58pts) to take out the day.

Congratulations to new comer's Colin Vavaut and John Heard for some great results under testing conditions!

Thanks to all at Koonawarra Bay for hosting this year's GP4 and we look forward to returning 2015.

Photo's from Dennis Yarrow WMYC.









