

Early WWSC DF65 R/C Model Yacht Racine



(08/10/16) WWSC new DF65 fleet awaiting the first start.

On Saturday, 8 Oct 16 with ski racing occurring all weekend and no sailing apparently possible, the Club had a working bee programmed immediately preceded by the trial racing of members' new radio controlled Dragon Force RG65 model yachts. A fine sunny day with very good steady breeze, but not too much, provided excellent conditions for the first wetting of these new boats. With 12 of these racing machines now in the hands of Club members, six were on the water this first day and provided some good, close racing. The one-design nature of this class, along with affordability, has proven popular and the initial race "results" show a good mix of places each race – reinforcing the benefits of the one-design chosen.



(08/10/16) Armchair sailors – too much whining, some winning and not near enough winning! Seriously though, the close racing and "dodgem boat" tactics engendered some great laughs and boatie banter.

By the end of the trials the very informal starts were getting very hotly contested, with some boats being drawn into close combat with others around the course. Very poor displays of seamanship and rules compliance lead to lots of friendly banter.



(08/10/16) Armchair sailors young and old. Strong agreement was reached that a few bottles of fine local red would much improve the racing experience! Red cordial of course for some.

It was good to see some younger faces present not usually present and plenty of observers having a look. This bodes well for the future and as a lead-in, possibly, for younger prospective sailors to enter the sport. It also turns out to be fun, competitive and comfortable. Though it was strongly felt that in future a glass or two of fine red would improve the sailing markedly!



(08/10/16) The ski racing was less a danger than the lone outrigger paddler!

Oddly enough the biggest threat was not from the ski racers but a lone outrigger paddler! In fact the boats handled the ski boat “wakelets” extremely well.



(08/10/16) Close racing around the bottom mark.

The boats look great, are very agile and perform well under sail. I think it will prove popular and expand the utility of WWSC.

A further practice was held on Sun, 16 Oct 16. Winds were 15-20kts and gusting over, with plenty of wave action. Additionally, it was Try Fishing Day so the Lake foreshore was replete with little fisher folk. After laying several marks inside the 4kt markers and trialling the wind and waves with several boats that handled them quite well despite a tendency to nosedive slightly (foreshadowing further requirement for smaller B & C rigs), activities were moved to the storm water ponds behind the Club and protected by the bund.



(16/10/16) Kerry Spalding keeping a close eye on his DF65 on the rear pond with young folk laying marks and keeping tabs on the boats.



(16/10/16) Greg Williams in both stylish and effective straw sun hat bringing his boat to heel!

Wind remained plentiful but the boats were not overpowered and there was much reduced wave action. It turned out to be a good site to re-lay the marks and practice some close racing again with six boats present. A r/c starting sequence sound file has been obtained and the next DF65 outing should see some starts practised through an outdoor Bluetooth speaker.