



On the Bow



A Newsletter Produced by the Bermuda Optimist Dinghy Association

Dates to Remember

Renaissance Re Jr Gold Cup
October 26-29 , Bermuda

Bermuda Nationals and Open Championship
Nov 11-13, Bermuda

RBYC Autumn Series
Sep 25, Oct 9, 23, Nov 6,
Bermuda

Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta
Dec 26-30, Miami, USA

35th Lake Garda Meeting Optimist Class
April 2017, Italy

Optimist South American Championship
April 22 - May 01 2017, Paraguay

Optimist North American Championship
June 25 - July 02 2017, Toronto, Canada

Optimist World Championship
July 11 - July 21 2017, Thailand

Optimist European Championship
July 30 - Aug 06 2017, Bulgaria

Race to the Rock raises close to \$16,000!

Seventeen brave Optimist Sailors raced for close to 6 hours from North Rock to Spanish Point on September 10th to raise funds for the Bermuda Optimist Dinghy Association. Some were teamed up while others sailed the entire length by themselves. Congrats to all who participated and to Somers and Megan Kempe for organising the event, Timmy Patton for the barge, Adam Barboza for acting as Race Committee and all the parents for their help.

Top Fundraiser and 3rd individual - Rachel Betchart
First place individual - Christopher Adderley
Second Place individual - Micah Raynor
First place group - Rian, Jack and Ahzai
Second place group: Sebastian, Leyli and Peter
Third place group: Christian, Cole and Magnus



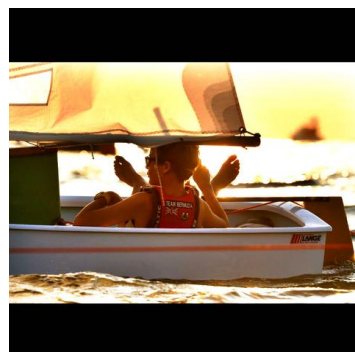
Recent Optimist graduate shares his advice

Campbell Patton, 15 has been sailing lasers since he left the Optimist class in October 2015. Less than a year later he qualified for the Youth Worlds in the Laser Radial by placing top Bermudian in the Sail Canada Regatta at Cork. Enjoy his story!

I started sailing the Optimist when I was 7 years old at the RBYC summer program in 2006. My main highlights from optis were not always winning regattas but just feeling good about how I sailed by the end of the regatta. I felt this feeling most after my first overseas event CORK, in Kingston Canada, where I placed first in the white fleet and 25th overall at the age of 10. Also my first World Championships at Lake Garda in 2013 when I placed 115th but was only 12. In optis I never had a perfect regatta. In fact, there was almost always something that went wrong at every regatta that I would look back on and think “man if only I hadn’t done that’. For example at the British Nationals in 2013, I would have won the junior fleet if it weren’t for one of my three black flags (instead I came 15th), but this was a huge learning point for me even if I didn’t take it that way at the time.



The same applies to all the regattas where I didn’t do as well as I thought I should have. It’s a good thing because now that I’ve moved into the laser and matured a bit, I find I am not making the same mistakes and I surprise myself going away to overseas events. In the future, I would like to stay in lasers and move in to full rigs to compete in the Olympics. This is the end goal, but there are a lot of steps before I get there. Something that was really important for me when I was racing in optis and (even more so) now in lasers was the starts. When Tom Herbert-Evans was coaching me he once told me that Ben Ainslie (my idol) said that the start was 80 percent of the race. Whether this was made up or not I don’t know but I fully believe it is true. The start is everything. For me I had to have an aggressive start and be in front of the line of boats no matter what the cost (sometimes it came at a cost) and this served and still does serve me well. Other than that, Optimists is a time to learn. Spend as much time in the boat as possible, put effort in and listen to your coaches. You don’t know how lucky you are to have such talented coaches (or even coaches) and don’t forget to thank everyone- this is so important.





Coaches Corner

Pablo Weber is the Bermuda High Performance Coach. Pablo is originally from Argentina and travels to Bermuda to coach a team of 12 top Bermuda Optimist Sailors and also travels with the team to International Optimist Events. Pablo first coached our high performance team some 10+ years ago and has returned in the last year. Pablo has been coaching optimists for 26 years and has had a few Bermuda North American Champions under his wing and also a second place in the Optimist World Championship. Pablo also coaches lasers and bytes when not in Bermuda with our team.

When asked what's the best tip you can give an optimist sailor he said:

- ◆ Your goal should be to do your best. There's only one winner so you should finish your race or regatta and feel you've done the best you could.

email: committe@boda.bm for questions/suggestions about the newsletter.
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Team Bermuda competes at the World Championship in Portugal

Sponsored by Aspen, Bermuda sent a team of five to the Optimist World Championship in Portugal in June. Felix Cutler, Jordan Etemadi, Micah Raynor, Tayte Stefaniuk and Leyli Walker were accompanied by their coach Pablo Weber, Team Leader Mona Walker and Country Representative Bethanne Thomas. Vilamoura was a gorgeous and welcoming place to sail. Winds were light and shifty . A bit of a tough regatta for our sailors. Overall results out of 255 sailors:

- Jordan Etemadi - 125th
- Micah Raynor - 198th
- Felix Cutler - 215th
- Tayte Stefaunik - 234rd
- Leyli Walker - 238th



International Summer Regatta Results for Team BER

Europeans: 185 sailors

Bronze Fleet:

38 Sebastian - (162 overall)

50 Magnus - (174 overall)

UK Nationals: 122 sailors

23 Magnus

25 Sebastian

Irish Nationals:

7 Rian

14 Fiachra

New England: 346 sailors

18 Rian Geraghty-McDonnell

23 Tayte Stefaunik

25 Jordan Etemadi

33 Sebastian Kempe

36 Felix Cutler

88 Ahzai Smith

91 Christian Ebbin

158 Magnus Rinsted

172 Fiachra McDonell

192 Christopher Adderley

238 Rachael Betschart

277 Skye Oliveira

CORK, Kingston,

Ontario: 127 sailors

3 Tayte Stefaunik

9 Jordan Etemadi

11 Ahzai Smith

21 Christian Ebbin

22 Magnus Ringsted

39 Leyli Walker

41 Christopher Adderley

Green Fleet - Ethan Etemadi

Team Bermuda at the North American Championship in Antigua

Team Bermuda travelled to Antigua in July for the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) North American Championship with a team of 4. Jordan Etemadi, Tayte Stefaniuk, Felix Cutler and Micah Raynor were accompanied by their coach Pablo Weber, Team Leader Laura Cutler and Country Representative Dede Cooper. Winds were around 8-12 knots most days.

Overall results out of 144 sailors:

Tayte Stefaunik - 23rd

Micah Raynor - 27th

Jordan Etemadi - 45th

Felix Cutler - 99th



Photos by Matias Capizzano



Bermuda Team in Summer Regattas

Our Optimist Sailors have had a busy summer competing overseas! Sebastian Kempe and Magnus Ringstedt went to the IODA Europeans in Italy with massive waves and lots of wind. Sebastian and Magnus also participated in the UK Nationals. We sent a team of 12 to the New England Championship in Newport, US. Rian, Tayte, Jordan, Sebastian, Felix, Ahzai, Christian, Magnus, Fiachra, Christopher, Rachael and Skye represented Bermuda very well. After that a team of 8 went to CORK, Canada: Christopher, Leyli, Magnus, Christian, Ahzai, Jordan, Ethan and Tayte. Rian and Fiachra also participated in the Irish Nationals. Well done to all!

