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NOVA SCOTIA MATCH RACING
CHAMPIONSHIP • 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

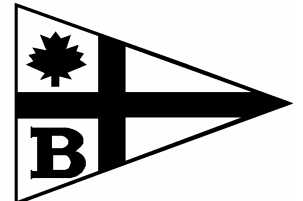
RORY MACDONALD CREW SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND THEIR TITLE TO REMAIN NOVA SCOTIA MATCH RACING CHAMPIONS

Bedford NS, September 7 – The 2003 Nova Scotia Match Racing Championships were held this weekend in the Bedford Basin in the vicinity of Spruce Island. With Hurricane Fabian approaching, regatta chairman Rod Wark was concerned that high winds and rain might force a postponement or cancellation. Rather than the feared high winds, the regatta saw quite the opposite – light and fluky winds on all three days. As each day progressed the sailors saw light winds, sunny skies and continually shifting wind directions, making each tactical move count more than ever. Vying for the championship this year were the following five teams - Kevin MacDonald – Bras d’or Yacht Club; Nick Hamblin - Atlantic J24 Class Association; Erik Koppernaes – Bedford Basin Yacht Club; Rory MacDonald – Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron; and Tony Moore – St. Margaret’s Sailing Club.

After the double round-robin competition on Friday and Saturday, the results were:

- Rory MacDonald – 6 wins
- Erik Koppernaes – 6 wins
- Tony Moore – 4 wins
- Kevin MacDonald – 3 wins
- Nick Hamblin – 1 win

A sail-off was held to determine the winner of the William Alexander Trophy for winning of the round-robin portion of the event. Rory MacDonald defeated Erik Koppernaes in the sail off to claim the trophy and the right to choose his opponent in the semi-finals.



In the semi-finals Rory MacDonald defeated Kevin MacDonald two wins to none while in the other semi-final, Erik Koppernaes defeated Tony Moore two wins to one.

The final best three out of five final series featured Koppernaes versus MacDonald in a re-match of last year’s final. With spectacular boat handling, decisive decision-making and agile crew work, the MacDonald crew from the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron defeated Koppernaes three wins to none to claim the David A. Forsthye trophy. The winning crew was Adam Roy and Sean MacDermott trimming main, Rob Trainor and Geoff Dalzell trimming jib and spinnaker, Steve DeBelie on panel, Barry Horne doing mast, Patrick LaRoche on foredeck and Rory MacDonald, skipper.

“In a sport where the best team wins I was fortunate enough to have the best team out there this weekend. My guys did an amazing job, they never missed a step and their boat handling, communication, and desire won us the trophy. I have to credit the match racing program at RNSYS for making our sailors more comfortable and competent in these events. Once again Rod Wark and his large group of volunteers did a first rate job of organizing the event and getting the races run in some difficult and uncooperative weather conditions. All of the competitors owe them our thanks for putting this event on for us. The other teams in the event gave it their all, putting on a good show for the spectators. I think particular credit needs to go to Erik Koppernaes for keeping his team in the event even though he was sailing with two broken ribs, that took a lot of spirit.” said Macdonald.

During the prize presentations the two international umpires who had come from Ontario to Umpire the event emphasized that they believe this to be the premier match racing event currently being held in Canada. Rod Wark, Regatta Chairman for the 7th consecutive year commented at the presentations that “As long as sailors and teams of this quality want to come and race, I’ll keep organizing and running the event, and look forward to all of you coming back next year”.

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For More Information

Rod Wark, Regatta Chairman
471-9022

or visit www.nsmrc.com for more information and photo’s of the racing.

For comments from the winner Rory MacDonald, contact him at 468-3094.