

OK World Championships at Lyme Regis Sailing Club

'An outstanding Championships and very welcoming club,' was the comment from competitors and opinion of the International Jury, at the end of a challenging week which saw Race Officer Allan Tyler and his team responding effectively to each twist of changing wind and sea conditions. A disappointing abandonment of all but the first start on Thursday was followed by a stiff breeze and building seas on the final race day, in contrast to lighter winds earlier in the week - a good range to test light and heavy-weather skills. The racing is what competitors traveled from across the world, Europe and the UK for, but all commented on the friendly welcome and the slick shore organisation provided by Lyme Regis Sailing Club as well as the race management.

With 143 entries, the fleet was split into two flights sailing complementary courses.



Pictured is one of the starts from the Committee boat, the Pin end in the distance. Off the start line! 014 Roger Blasse, Aus, in foreground Photo: Pauline Rook

Nine races were sailed by the gold fleet, and 8 by the silver, split after the first three days

according to scores.

Coming through with two wins on the final day to take the championship title, was Brit Henry Wetherell from Weymouth Academy (8,3,3,2,4,2,1,1).



Bow

136, Henry Wetherell. Photo: Robert Deaves

Second was Nicklas Edler, Sweden (1,3,2,4,2,9,4,4), and third overall was Valerian Lebrun, France (4,2,4,1,10,5,5,5).

With 5 placings in the top 10, and 9 in the top 20, the UK came out on top in the mixed entry from 13 countries.



Photo of top 10, Brits Tom Whetherell 1st, centre back, Nick Craig 6th, third from left front, Charlie Cumbley 7th, fourth left front.

Second in the Under 24s was Lyme's Tom Rawlings, taking to an OK lent by Association Secretary Mary Reddyhoff, but noticeably underweight for the boat.



Tom congratulated by U 24s winner

'This was the biggest and most prestigious event that Lyme has ever held. Having sailed at the club since I was 9 years old, I was confident that we could host a great event and am proud of what we achieved as a team,' said Race Officer Allan Tyler.

David Beer, OK Worlds 2023 Chair, also thanked the club team:

'The first World Championships we have held here in Lyme. A fantastic effort in the planning, preparation and execution by all members, in particular the Race Officer and those on the water laying courses with precision, the Beach team orchestrating berthing, launching and recovery, the bar and catering volunteers. Special thanks to Chris Turner and my key organising team, our sponsors, Harbourmaster and staff, local fishermen, harbour users, businesses and our Town Council. We couldn't have done it without all of you supporting us.'

Full results on the OK Association and LRSC websites.