



NORTHERN
REGION

Regional News

South African International Dart Association

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RE: DART CLASS DOUBLE HANDED NATIONALS ARTICLE

After our Single Handed Nationals the Dart fleet were in the groove for some competitive sailing and our Double Handed Nationals showed just that. Race wins became a tussle between the top six boats. Racing kicked off on the Saturday with 25 knots of wind and 26 entries lined up at the start. Sailing was tough with the choppy waves but very exciting, if you made a mistake it cost you five positions. Downwind legs were exciting at times and some competitors couldn't stay on their Dart. Four

races were sailed but unfortunately one race was abandoned. Unfortunately the conditions for the first day didn't continue into days 2,3 & 4, the remaining 3 days we waited for the wind to fill in late morning and steady through lunch. Sailors took to the water once postponement was dropped and racing was underway for the afternoon. With some tricky wind conditions racing was sometimes a lottery and the lead changed regularly.



With the tricky weather conditions racing was tough, good starts were needed to get clear air for the sprint to the windward mark. This contributed to some interesting tactics on the start line. The lead changed hands during the races and multiple race winners emerged during the regatta, the youth skippers were in the mix throughout, but consistency again was the key factor. Ben Mienie was the eventual winner with Keagan Nel finishing second (1st Youth) and Cameron Diesel 3rd (2nd Youth).

SAIDA gave all competitors a branded sailing top with a South African Sailing Northern Region buff and Stilbaai Yacht Club contributing some giveaways.

Great food was served throughout the regatta from the club's kitchen which kept the bridge, rescue, sailors and families well fed over the regatta. SYC again ran a great regatta and thank you for hosting the Dart18 Class.

To all the Dart owners in South Africa, get your boat out from under the covers and come sailing again, we have a lot of youth aging out and becoming adults. Get your kids back into sailing and see you at next year's Nationals.

Cheers

Derek van Heerden

SAIDA Chairperson