

# Simplified regatta management

The organisers of the upcoming Optimist National champs have a little secret that more and more boat clubs are catching on to – a NZ-developed online club and event management system that dramatically saves volunteer time



Rippey says the Association has won the rights to host the Optimist World Championships in 2012.

“When we started using ClubHub we wanted to be familiar with it by the time the world championship came round. In fact it is already proven as very adaptable and easy to use, so it is going to be an important part of helping us run a really great event.” ↓

ClubHub makes it easier to run a club because:

- Members register online, radically reducing time and paperwork
- Immediate payment is made into the club's bank account
- A full audit trail of all information and payments is available
- Heaps of other features designed specifically to help manage your club can be used, such as member merchandise, coaching clinics and web site content system
- Organise a regatta
- Everyone registers and pays online
- System requires mandatory information to be captured
- Easy to assign and manage entrants into classes
- Instant reconciliation of credit card payments

**For more information about ClubHub, ph 0508 CLUBHUB, visit [www.clubhub.co.nz](http://www.clubhub.co.nz) or email Duncan Stewart at [duncan@clubhub.co.nz](mailto:duncan@clubhub.co.nz)**

If you have ever organised a regatta you know just how much work gets done before the starter's gun fires. And based on past experience, Nigel Rippey and the team at the NZ International Optimist Dinghy Association ought to be dreading the challenge of organising the upcoming 2010 Optimist Nationals at Whitianga starting on March 31.

With around 250 sailors aged seven to 15, the event is the country's biggest single-class youth regatta. But where managing registrations used to be enough to drive even a strong volunteer to drink, says Rippey (president of the NZ International Optimist Dinghy Association), this year they are enjoying a big change. Thanks to using ClubHub, an online club management system, they are already on track to save “days and days” of hassle and time.

The system is used at the Torbay and Kohimarama sailing clubs, both of which had members on the Optimist committee out. Using the internet to speed up and simplify capture of regatta entry information, club officers can easily manage, track and communicate with all competitors.

As with many clubs in previous years, regatta entrants downloaded a form and posted it back. And that was when the real work began. Dates would be filled in incorrectly. Compliance certificate numbers were forgotten or given in error. Often it was impossible to reconcile payments with entrants.

“It wasn't unusual for our volunteer to have to call the same person back three or four times just to

get them registered for an event,” Rippey says.

Now, using the ClubHub system, all information is captured when the sailor registers online. The system requires key fields to be filled in and then presents the information in a way that is easy for the event organisers to track registrations and payments, group sailors in classes and communicate with selected groups at the click of an email.

“It's simplifying what used to be a massive job. All the information we need is already there and sorted for us,” says Rippey. “Now as the registrations come in I can check them, our secretary can check them and our treasurer can check payments – all just by tabbing into the system via the internet.”

The Torbay Sailing Club used ClubHub for the Sir Peter Blake Regatta, where it delivered a print-out of registrations, fleet sizes and merchandise requirements before the regatta even started, says Simon Welch, the club's web and ClubHub administrator. Torbay also uses the system on an ongoing basis to manage the club through the year.

This radically cuts down on the time taken in communicating with members day to day, managing finances and organising club activities like coaching courses, meetings, social functions, fund raisers and AGMs.

“As a club reliant on volunteers to achieve everything, the underlying principle of saving their time through moving the registration and admin process online has got to be a winner for everyone concerned,” says Welch.