

OPTIMIST WORLDS SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP... TEAM SOUTH AFRICA SHOWED CONSISTENT FORM

The 2011 Optimist Worlds Sailing Championship which was held in Napier, New Zealand was completed on 09 January 2011.

210 Sailors comprising the top 5 sailors from 48 countries competed for the world title in a very technical and competitive 10-day event.

The wind conditions in Napier provided some challenges, with a few races being cancelled and Team South Africa faced a bit of difficulty with the wind conditions which were considerably different from what they are used to in Cape Town.

According to the coach Andrea Giovannini, there were lots of learning curves for the boys in this short space of time. "My main focus was to guide the kids around these learning curves so that we could get some credible results," said Andrea.

The races are now over and the results are in. David Wilson has done South Africa really proud by consistently finishing in the top 40 throughout the competition with a final position of 47th overall. Team South Africa also finished just shy of the quarter finals in the team racing event. Singapore's Kimberly Lim claimed the victory and was announced 2011 World Optimist Dinghy Sailing Champion.

"It took some time but the guys eventually learnt to negotiate their way around big fleet sailing. This was possibly South Africa's most successful Optimist campaign in 10 years," Andrea continued.

