

The 2009 Minnow Nationals were sailed at the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron in moderate conditions. The host club has been a strong supporter of the Minnow class for over 30 years and being next door to Sorrento Sailing Club, another big Minnow club it was no surprise that there were just under 100 boats competing.

The good news for the class and junior sailing in general was the large novice division entry. While in previous years this division has represented about 15 per cent of the total fleet, this year with 43 entries it represented nearly 45 per cent of the total fleet.

The racing was held over two courses.

The Open division was dominated by six boats right from the start with Tom Trotman, Tess Lloyd, Sam Hannah, Jack Graves, Zac O'Connell and Jack Felsenthal seeming to have a definite speed advantage over the rest of the fleet.

Speed does not always equal results and one of the fastest, Tom Trotman had his fair share of bad luck with his mast step breaking within metres of the finish line while leading one race.

After six races the regatta was won by Jack Felsenthal in Cracker Jack who demonstrated great boat handling, solid tactics and speed to win overall from a fastfinishing Tess Lloyd, who was only one point behind in Blondes Away.

Zac O'Connell in Zac-A-Tack had blindingly fast offwind speed and finished third overall.

The junior division was close-fought, with Jack Graves (fourth overall) winning from Sam Hannah with Jack Abbott in third.