

Mercury Bay Open 2015

Grass-roots competition spearfishing is alive and well in Mercury Bay.

Sunday's adverse weather forecast did little to dampen the spirits of the hardy that turned out to chase fish on a wet Queen's birthday weekend.

"Herb", Sandy Herbert and their dedicated local support crew have been hosting this competition for over 20 years now and the event is renowned for its awesome weed-line hunting, big currents, clear water and plenty of fish. The 2015 event held at Korapuki was exactly that however the fish were playing hard to get, very much harder as the divers will tell you. An early warning of our impending arrival and intentions or the sharks that were in attendance, who knows, they're fish and don't operate by our rules, but they were certainly nervous on the day. The impromptu arrival of the odd mature Bronzee (Bronze Whaler) or Mako rocking up either on the surface or whilst lying on the bottom up certainly didn't help. These unwelcome arrivals do wonders for ones inability to relax (a key component of our sport).

This year's event attracted 17 diving pairs including two junior's teams.

The competition went down to the wire with one determined pair warned to get back to the start zone or be disqualified. Unknown to the Safety boat driver (Herb) they were desperately trying to take a John Dory that had other ideas.

That fish would have given Rowan Virbickas and Scott Parker (two local lads) a clear victory but that wasn't how the comp would end. At the weigh-in four of the top 5 teams had 10 fish and the 4th place went to a team with 9.

An extremely close fought battle and possibly the closest top 5 placings in any competition to date.

The eventual winners were an elated Rob Harrison and Braden Lynch, 10 fish, 1169 points. Just 88 points separated the top 5 teams.





1	Rob & Braden	1169
2	Ronan & Scotty	1133
3	Conor & Raymond	1111
4	Dave & Mal	1071
5	Kait & Gray	1081
6	Jeremy & Andrew / Jack & Lathan	670
8	Behinda & Luce	575
9	Leel & Jack	561
10	Paris & Ridi	552
11	Arthur & Bayan	548
12	Bradley & Patrick	447
13	Poss & Jack	445
14	George & Lindsay	443
15	Zane & Kiel	436
FNRS.		
1st	Conor & Raymond	1760
2nd	Zane & Kiel	538