

## CLUB RACING RACING 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 OOD PAT AND FRANK

Margaret / Mike **(W) Wayfarer**

Billy / Corrane **(GP14)**

Kevin / Martin **(E) Enterprise**

Mark / Daniel **(RS) Feva**

Most of Thursday's weather brought strong SW winds and severe squalls for the junior summer camps with only the Advanced levels taking to the water to gain heavy weather experience. By 4.45 the last good squall passed and by 5.15 we made a call to set a course and the poll went out on whats app. The SW wind had eased a little and according to Met Eireann it was due to decrease further.

We set a port course and while we waited for the 4 boats rigging to arrive at the start when the sun started to show its face. The steady strong breeze never shifted all evening, which made our job easy. Our start line was set up close to a very noisy bird island, at times drowning out the bad language and the hooter.

Race 1 start saw some great boat handling and timing, all approaching the line at speed, no messing, on time and no one over, all clear.

The breeze was perfect. Kevin / Martin (E) and Mark / Daniel (RS) tack west for the clubhouse, passing close to bird island.

Margaret / Mike (W) and Billy / Corrane (GP14) on the opposite tack head south for the hills.

From our position we could see a strong narrow lifting wind channel right up the middle of the course and the first boat to utilise this would make hay.

The strong breeze meant it only took 4 minutes for (W) to round the windward mark. (GP14) in hot pursuit then the (RS) and then the (E).

All holding the same positions around the gybe mark a lot of nip and tuck between (W) and (GP14) and some good battles between the (RS) and (E), the (RS) getting ahead around at the Leeward mark behind GP14 and W. For leg 2 bird island erupted, the birds were going mental either for the exciting close racing or maybe there were just hungry.

The (W) deployed the spinnaker and it was effective for the sausage opening up space with the GP14, who held their own getting away from the (E) and (RS) staying close to each other.

The (E) made good ground on the (RS) rounding windward ahead for the sausage. The (W) and (RS) the only two deploying spinnakers all evening. The (W) gained ground on the last leg and the three following jostled until the finish.

Crossing the line in that order W, Gp14, E, RS Race 1 complete.

The Start of Race 2 went as good as the first, this time (W) and (E) west the clubhouse. (GP14) and (RS) south to the hills picking up good lift. Great tacking battles towards the windward Mark. Around the windward this time in 5.5 minutes, the GP14, E, W, RS. Spinnakers shot up on the two at the back with Gp14 and E holding ground to the gybe mark.

W with Spinnaker gains ground, now attacking the E who successfully deploys an bit of luffing, Gp14 holding his own in front and rounding leeward mark first, a fight for water between W and E with the E rounding 2<sup>nd</sup> and W , RS in hot pursuit. All following similar pattern to race start. More gains this time after the first tack passing bird island for E. The W delaying tacking losing a little.

Approaching windward from the right E and GP14 opposite W an RS.

GP14 1<sup>st</sup> round then W, with a close tack to pip E, and then RS.

W deploys rapid spinnaker making gains, 1<sup>st</sup> around gybe getting dirty wind from GP14, goose winging and holding similar positions all the way round lee very close together. All holding similar positions around the windward for the sausage, RS has a tiller extension breakage which leads to retirement rounding the lee mark. The sun is now shining, and the wind strength has held with no shifts worth talking about or big gusts.

A lot of gains, losses, and close tacking between the 3 boats on the last leg. The W spinnaker really opens up a good lead, seven seconds between GP14 and E around the last mark. The W crosses the line first at 29m50s and 50s later the Gp14 and 21 seconds later The E. the RS retiring earlier with technical difficulties (DNF race 2).

Stunning sunshine as we head back to the club house with a slight decrease in wind.

Brilliant racing thanks to all.

Pat and Frank