



LEYC's annual National Yeoman Championship is next weekend, 24 & 25 September. Race Officer Mark Valentine's team will manage six races over the two days for these neat fast keelboats, economical to own, a 1960s design for the Norfolk Broads but since well proven suited to our more open scenic Erne waters.

Following boat preparations and race briefing ashore, Saturday's first race is due at 12.00 noon. BBQ (own food) and Bar are planned after racing with LEYC members and friends, racing or otherwise, all invited to this social side of our Club's great sailing sport.

On Sunday, the fleet will be out for the rest of the six races programmed, followed by prize giving.



Sailing Development Strategy

An Autumn 2015 strategic development scheme for sailing, four J/24 races on each of seven Sunday afternoons, had set out to activate LEYC resources for growth in sailing fleet co-operation, enthusiasm and engagement: more sailors, more boats, more members: expert to novice, all enjoying sailing sport.

It worked well. LEYC's Autumn 2016's J/24 keelboat programme now aims deeper and further, entirely thanks to 30 LEYC members, led by Yeoman sailors, volunteering skills and services, afloat and ashore, and craft as escort boats, to run 26 well managed keelboat races on six weekends up to mid-October.

By Sunday 18 September there were a dozen J/24s at LEYC. Each takes 5 crew – key crew growth potential.

Nine are on moorings, 3 ashore. They include four visitors from Sligo and Lough Ree YC. Eight raced that Sunday afternoon: more are expected 2 October.



LEYC's J/24 racing is next due on Sundays 2 & 9 and Saturday 15 October, plans amended perhaps, to recover four races lost and keep to 20-race target.

J/24 Autumn Series – First 4 Races Report

A Sunday gale had cancelled LEYC's first four planned Autumn J/24 Series races. At first on Sunday, 18 September, fickle light breezes beset our J/24 fleet.

But wind by second race had settled to a moderate if shifty breeze giving very fair sport, with courses neatly changed true by support boat crews as wind shifted.

We had 50 active, in race management, shore support and in crews of eight J/24s for four races: good courses set and re-set by Race Officer, Michael McCaldin heading our LEYC race management team.

Overall winner: Jana, Sligo YC; second LEYC's Jigalo; third and best Westerly boat, Jeriatrix LEYC, equal points with Jasper, LEYC – tie break, last race place.



J/24 Results Sunday 18 September 2016

Place Overall, boat, helm, club, race score, total.

- 1 Jana, Brian Raftery, Sligo YC, 2, 1, 2, 1, total 6 points
- 2 Jigalo, Tim Rippey, LEYC, 1, 4, 1, 5, tot 11 pts.
- 3 Jeriatrix, Michael Clarke LEYC, 3, 3, 4, 2, tot 12 pts.
- 4 Jasper, David Taylor, LEYC, 4, 2, 3, 3, tot 12 pts
- 5 Luder-Too, Ken Draper, SYC, 5, 6, 5, 4, tot 20 pts
- 6 Jota, John Buckley, LEYC, 6, 5, 6, 7, tot 24 pts
- 7 Jet, John Carter, LEYC, 7, 8, 7, 9 (DNS), tot 31 pts
- 8 TJ, Barry Humphreys, LEYC, 8, 7, 8, 6, tot 29 pts.

Sailing uses the 'low-points' system. Race winner scores 1 point, second 2 etc. Lowest total is overall winner. Penalty race score 1 more than boats entered.

Boats, Sailors and Sailing Sport History

New member, David Taylor who did well helming J/24 Jasper will also helm our Club-owned Yeoman next weekend. David's family for many generations back to the 1880's is linked to LEYC and Erne Sailing sport. Good to have David (and more Taylors?) in LEYC.



Sunday's J/24 start lines were just south of the line set for race starts for a then new class of 24 foot 'fast sailing boats' in 1822. The then "Race Stewart" was based in the cottage on Inishdoney, home today of Joey and Caroline Kelly – aptly Joey was on Sunday's committee boat for the J/24 races 194 years later.

Jana's tilting road trailer in LEYC carpark caused much curiosity. Italian build, her trailer is adjustable so load is within legal width on Italian roads. She is one of the nine J/24s on LEYC moorings (18 September). Another from Sligo YC is Luder-Too, a red well-kept Westerly built J/24, raced for many years by LEYC's Robin Eagleson, past Irish J/24 President and J/24 World Council Chair.

After 2015 sailing course, Brenna and Philomena, had a good season racing together in GP14 and Laser 2000 dinghies. They crewed on J/24 TJ for Sunday's races, as did visitor Gordon, good canoeist but sailing novice. These are just a few of many good news stories of



existing, new and potential LEYC sailing members greatly enjoying the organised sport of racing in a fleet of 'fast sailing boats' pioneered by our Club's forefathers nearly two centuries ago on Lough Erne.

To join them and in the fun, be there on 24 & 25 September, and 2, 9, and 15 October, whether to race, to help race management, or even just for the crack after sailing around the BBQ and in LEYC Bar.

Most Photographs by Peter Scott - many thanks.
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