

LEYC Sailing News 24 & 25 Sept 2016

Yet another great weekend of autumn sailing sport with sailing successes to report on Gublusk and on Sligo Bay: enjoyed at LEYC by near 60 sailors & social, race management and spectators. Despite torrential showers an irrepressible buzz was about LEYC site and in the happy family evening crowd for BBQ & Bar.

Six Well Set Yeoman Championship Races

Race Officer Mark Valentine, with Bob Torrens, used his keen eye for wind to neatly create six fair, true windward-leeward courses that ensured close fought competitive sport for the Yeoman Championship 2016: all on Gublusk Bay in clear sight of the Club.

A special delight was to see Raymond Morrison out and about among spectators ashore or on the jetty watching the races: start-finish lines were only two hundred yards away. He saw his beloved Yeoman, Lady Rose do well on Sunday, helmed by Warren Cooper with Catherine McCullough crew.

Results: Yeoman Championship 2016

1 Honeybee, Declan Dooley, 1, (2), 1, 1, 2, 1, net 6
2 Christa, Bertie Forsythe, 5, 1, 2, 4, 1, (7DNS) net 13
3 Blue Diamond, John McCrea, 2, (5), 5, 5, 3, 2 net 17
4 Amber, David Taylor, 4, 3, 3, 2, (7 DNC) 7DNC net 19
5 Nelly K, Brendan Gallagher, 3, 4, 4, 3, (7) 7, net 21
6 Lady Rose, Warren Cooper, (7) 7, 7, 7, 4, 3, net 28

Yeoman Racing Report: Successes & Prizes.

Both days experienced shifty and sometimes squally SW winds and some rain – worst was a long torrential downpour on Sunday morning's two final races. Race area being handy to Yeoman jetty in Gublusk Bay, and efficient starts prompt after last boat finished, greatly increased time spent actually racing, the priority purpose of the entire enterprise. Many thanks, Mark.

Declan Dooley with Stephen Carson in Honeybee won four races and came second in two. They were presented the top trophy by Sailing Secretary, John McCrea: a fine mahogany Yeoman Plaque with little plates attached recording past winners.

Declan's proud children, Michael and Katie, were also pictured – yet another fine example of LEYC's greatly valued sailing families. Honeybee did not win all easily, was often challenged, was denied first place twice by Crista, helm Bertie Forsythe with Michael Clarke (combined age 153 years). Bertie got second overall prize: Sunday crew young Garnet Doherty.



John McCrea's Blue Diamond crew was Chris Kelly, a keen new LEYC member this season. Third overall, scores included two seconds and a third. David and his brother Steven Taylor sailed the Club-owned Yeoman, Amber very well on Saturday, scores including one second, were third overall overnight, but DNS Sunday.

Brendan Gallagher in Nelly Kelly with Catherine Ward scored two thirds on Saturday, but retired on Sunday (crew Sheila Gilroy Collins) in a nasty squall fearing damage – indeed lowering her mast ashore found a stainless steel strap parted at the top of her shrouds.

Work stopped Warren Cooper helming Lady Rose on Saturday. With crew Catherine McCullough, they made a respectable fourth and third on Sunday.



That every boat scored at least one third, or better, shows the sporting wealth of one-design racing on well managed courses. Autumn 2016 racing shows that LEYC has a bank full of rich talent to compete, efficiently manage, and enjoy good sailing sport.



Above photograph, thanks to Bob Torrens, was taken as boats fought upwind after rounding a leeward mark. It captures the spirit of one-design Yeoman racing. Crista, left must point up yet sail fast to keep ahead of Honey Bee on her port quarter. Close astern are Nelly Kelly and Lady Rose, right, rounding.

Mr & Mrs McCaldin's Autumn GP14 Success.

Also at the weekend, a sailing neighbour, Sligo YC hosted the Irish GP14 Autumn Championship. JP and Carolyn McCaldin emerged fifth overall in the 25 strong fleet, and won this elegant GP14 salver (Yet another example of a fine LEYC sailing family)



Autumn J/24 Plans & GP14 connections

Other weekend GP14 helms also have J/24 connections. Eighth overall on Sligo Bay, Ronan Armstrong is due at LEYC next Sunday 2 October to helm J/24 Crazyhorse. Another, Gerry Gilligan owns J/24 Jana, overall winner of the four LEYC Autumn J/24 series races held on Sunday 18 September.

Many LEYC sailors with GP14 background now race in J/24 or Yeoman keelboats – including the venerable Jeratrix helm who sailed real GP14s in the 1950s when they had a small jib and carried oars – design intention was a “general purpose” fourteen footer.

Sundays 2 & 9 October, and Sat 15 October.

First point to make is that many J/24s will be looking for crew: a strategy for this J/24 autumn racing is to recruit crew and yet more LEYC sailing members.

Sunday's Race Officer will be Mick Whaley – past GP and J/24 sailor, today skipper of the 110 year old Maeve: a Fairy of exemplary speed and elegance. We got eight J/24s racing on 18 September. Might get 10 this Sunday 2 October, if few drop out and others expected turn up. The forecast (on Monday) seems OK. Wind SSW 12 gust 25mph. Weather 10% rain risk.

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