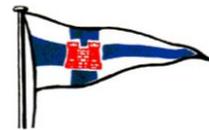


LOUGH ERNE YACHT CLUB

Founded 1818. Oldest Yacht-Racing Club in Ireland, Gublusk Bay, Lower Lough Erne

REPORT - SUMMER REGATTA 21 & 22 June 2014



The 2014 Lough Erne Summer Regatta was not the biggest but it sure was the best in recent years. After eight very competitive races, Joey Kelly's Storm emerged overall winner among the historic Fairy keelboats,

Declan Dooley's Honeybee likewise in the Yeoman keelboats and two keen and able 14 year old sailors, Timothy Boomer and Finbar McCann triumphed among the dinghies racing in our Club owned R2000.



The weather was without summer's often fickle winds. A moderate wind from North West veering North-North-West, suited courses upwind to Club's race buoys marked on the Ordnance Survey map at Divann or at Horse Island. The courses set by Race Officer Michael Clarke, also used Bay and Long island buoys. All starts and finishes were over the LEYC line in Gublusk Bay.

The fleet often made tight packed starts. Sustained skilled sailing made many overlapped finishes. All but two races were 'back to back' with one break ashore on Saturday and none on Sunday. Course changes were called by loudspeaker as each race ended so the next started promptly. Moderate winds demand very skilled sail trim and boat handling to get best speed. The regatta became two days of concentrated and competitive sailing sport – and very great fun. Any lead gained upwind had to be defended downwind from

wind shadow of boats astern collapsing the spinnaker.



Timothy Boomer and Finbar McCann, with on Sunday Fouad Ghareeb, sailed every race, winning three in a net total score 11. Jorgen Pedersen and teenager Jonathan Kerr raced on Saturday in his GP 14 dinghy Probably The Best and counted four firsts. Jonathan sailed a Laser on Sunday, wining a race. Michael Brines and Fouad Gareeb sailed Saturday in Cathcart, one of the Club's GP14 dinghies, best second and third.



Lough Erne's Fairy keelboats first raced in June 1905. Huge Edwardian Gunter lug mainsails spread, they wafted fast up and downwind. Winners, Joey Kelly with Archie Hamilton in Storm counted four firsts in a net score of 12, one point clear of Michael Whaley and Jo Thompson in Maeve, who won two races. Visitors, Neill Suitor and Brian O'Neill in Zephyr were third, one first in a net score of 17



Overnight after five races, first placed Yeoman was Raymond Morrison with Katrina McGirr in Lady Rose ahead of Bertie and Iain Forsythe in Crista, both 7 net points, but Lady Rose two firsts to Christa's one. Declan Dooley and Robin Forsythe in Honeybee trailed third, 9 points, then stormed out to win all three Sunday races, net 12 points, winning the Yeoman first prize, well ahead of Lady Rose, 15 and Crista 17 net.



Displaying yet more tight Yeoman competition, fourth placed Richard Smith and Teresa O'Hare in Growler also won a race, lifting them one point clear of fifth placed Donald McCarthy and Michele Martin

whose best was a third place in Mirage. John M'Crea and teenager Rory Gill were sixth in Blue Diamond, and seventh was a very new crew and boat to Lough Erne, Greg and daughter Alexandria in Scorpio, a fine boat with an improving crew to watch.

Conclusion: a great regatta that enjoyed good winds for racing on both days, made good use of by eight races, the largest number ever in an LEYC regatta. We must do this again.

Also on this weekend, LEYC's John Patrick McCaldin raced Jamais Encore in the Irish J/24 Eastern Championship at Howth YC. Two penalty scores set back to sixth place a crew that included June Clarke. Another J/24 Bandit was entered by Jude Anderson, who won Lough Erne's 2013 Georgian Race, helming J/24 Jeriatrix: a feat she must defend in the 2014 Georgian Races on Sunday 20 July. *Many thanks for photographs to Donald McCarthy and Teresa O'Hare. END.*

