

Yeoman Irish National Championship 2015



Last weekend saw the Yeoman Irish National Championship taking place at Lough Erne Yacht Club. Six races being planned over the weekend under the control of race officer Michael Whaley.

Saturday dawned with strong wind conditions, which caused problems for some crews throughout the day. Race one saw Raymond Morrison and Warren Cooper in Lady Rose take an early lead from John McCrea and Rory Gill in Blue Diamond with Donald McCarthy and Garnet Doherty third. The windy conditions played havoc in race two, seeing only half the fleet competing in the race. Donald McCarthy used the conditions to his advantage to win the race just ahead of Raymond Morrison who had to perform penalty turns, following an infringement with John McCrea finishing third. Race three saw the weather conditions getting much worse, Raymond Morrison and Warren Cooper in Lady Rose took an early lead but soon had to retire with gear failure. This left John McCrea and Rory Gill in Blue Diamond to take the win after a close battle with Donald McCarthy and Garnet Doherty with Brendan Gallagher and David Mole in Nelly Kelly in third. This left John McCrea and Donald McCarthy tied as overnight leaders.

Sunday brought better weather conditions and a full fleet of boats returning to the racing. Race four saw Raymond Morrison and Warren Cooper in Lady Rose start the day with a win from Brendan Gallagher and David Mole in Nelly Kelly, with Declan Dooley sailing solo in Honey Bee third.

Race five saw John McCrea and Rory Gill take the lead, which they held to just before the finish when confusion among the crew allowed Bertie and Ian Forsythe in Crista to steal a win right on the line, ahead of Raymond Morrison in second and John McCrea in third. All this left the championship in the balance. The final Race saw one of the clubs youth sailors Finbar McCann with Richard Smith in Growler take an early lead but slipped back to second by the end of race, after a very strong performance the final race was won by Raymond Morrison and Warren Cooper to seal the championship with Bertie and Ian Forsythe taking third in the final race. John McCrea was left to take second in the championship, after a strong performance all weekend, with Donald McCarthy and Garnet Doherty taking third overall.



Yeoman Irish National Championship 2015: Winning crew members Warren Cooper and Raymond Morrison are pictured with Bertie Forsythe (Yeoman Fleet Captain) and Michele Martin (Lough Erne Yacht Club)