



Irish Sea Offshore



Racing Association

Report on Race 2 – Dun Laoghaire to North Arklow to Dun Laoghaire – 9th May 2009.

The race was run in conjunction with the Royal Alfred Yacht Club / Lee Overlay Series. A great fleet of 15 boats came to the line, 13 of these were ISORA entries. The weather forecast was for moderate southwesterly wind decreasing all the time to slight winds expected in the evening. The tides for the day were very strong. Despite this, the course on the day was as instructed – 52 miles.

The start took place at 10.00 hours with a 20k southwesterly wind. As the fleet reached out of Dublin Bay it was obvious that the forecast was not going to be accurate and the winds continued to gust up to 30k for the remainder of the day. The worst conditions were found at Wicklow head where the 4k tides struck up steep seas. The leg from the Muglins to North Arklow was a tight beam reach. With the tight wind angle and strong gusts, no spinnakers were attempted. The return hand was identical but the sea conditions were better. Only two boats were seen launching kites only to hastily retrieve them soon after.

“Galileo”, Sean Lemass and Tony Tennyson were the first to round North Arklow and proceeded to steam back to Dun Laoghaire on their own to take line honours, 1st overall and 1st in Class 1. Next rounding was “Legally Brunette”, Paul Egan followed very closely by “Tsunami”, Vincent Farrell. The two boats battled together changing places at times as they headed towards the Dun Laoghaire. They crossed the line in the order of rounding North Arklow, two minutes apart. However, on handicap “Tsunami” took 2nd overall and 2nd in Class 1 while “Legally Brunette” took 3rd in Class 1.

In Class 2, a similar duel took place between “Aztec”, Peter Beamish and “Big Hillie Style”, Ross O’Leary. “Aztec” finishing 11 minutes in front. “Aztec” took 1st place Class 2 while “Big Hillie Style” took 2nd Class 2. “Sarnia”, Michael Creedon, took 3rd Class 2. The last boat finished 19.15 hours.

Despite the strong winds and tide, the sun shined and a great days sailing was had by all boats.

The next ISORA race is on the 23rd May with an early start from Pwllheli to Wicklow.