



Irish Sea Offshore



Racing Association

Report on Race 1 – Dun Laoghaire to M2 Weather Buoy to Holyhead – 25th April 2009.

The season got off to a cracking start with 12 boats from an entry list of 17 boats were on the starting line on Saturday. The weather forecast and the early date caused problems for some of the regular entries. Gales were forecast for the south and west coasts with a Small Craft Warning for the Irish Sea. Adding to the difficulty, the M2 buoy had also been removed for servicing. The course on the day was direct to Holyhead.

As no entries had been received from any White Sail boats the Race Committee decided that the IRC would be sub divided into Class 1 & 2 with the split at IRC rating 1.045. This split also evenly divided the fleet.

The start took place with a 20k Northerly wind. The forecast was for the wind to veer northeasterly and moderate and continue to southerly later in the day. The wind moderated sooner than expected and the shift to southerly split the fleet. The winds became light and variable and with a big lumpy sea, made progress difficult.

The approach to Holyhead was at its trickiest. The light variable winds and the strong spring tides made it critical that the right approach was taken. “Tsunami”, Vincent Farrell, made all the right decision in staying north while crossing the Irish Sea but being south of Holyhead on the approach to the finish with a strong flooding tide. “Tsunami” took line honours and 1st Overall and 1st Class1.

Of the 12 starters, only 4 boats managed to deal with the conditions and finish in Holyhead. “Contango”, Barry Cunningham took 2nd Overall and 1st Class 2 while “Orna”, Philip Dilworth took 3rd Overall and 2nd Class 1 with “Galileo”, Sean Lemass and Tony Tennyson taking 3rd Class 1.

For those boats luck enough to reach Holyhead, Sailing Secretary and Past Commodore, Dawn Russell had arranged a great party. The hospitality shown in Holyhead was worth the frustration of the long race and ISORA look forward to its next visit there in July for the ISORA / RORC / Lyver Race and feeder to the Dun Laoghaire Regatta..

The next race is a combined ISORA / RAYC Day race on the 9th May.