

ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association



ISORA 2018

Report on 2018 by Hon. Sec Stephen Tudor

The 2018 ISORA series started in April and racing concluded on Saturday 8th September.

There have been 15 races with 60 competing boats from 14 Clubs.

The fleet has visited seven ports including Dún Laoghaire, Pwllheli, Wicklow, Liverpool, Douglas, Howth, and Greystones. We are extremely grateful for the work and input of all Club representatives who have made our visits possible. The devastation in Holyhead impacted on the number of competitors and a loss of a key port in the 2018 schedule. We hope that we can return to Holyhead in 2019.

The ISORA Offshore Series for the Royal Dee Yacht Club's prestigious Wolf's Head was won again this year by the Mojito team for the best five offshore races, followed closely by Aurelia who collected most points in the season and consequently won the ISORA Points Series.

The two ISORA Coastal Series attract the largest fleets; The **Viking Marine** Series in Ireland and the **Global Exhibitions** Series in Wales. This style of point to point racing is very popular with competitors favouring the challenge of a longer race with the usual post-race social gathering.

The Club Team Trophy was won again this year by Pwllheli Sailing Club team.

Prizes are awarded to all principal winners and to each race winner, overall winners in each of the three IRC classes and the restrictive class 'Silver Class' and all races have been scored with the progressive Irish Sailing and ISORA ECHO handicapping.

ISORA is affiliated to the governing bodies; 'Irish Sailing' IS and 'RYA' and 'RYA Cymru Wales'.

We have embraced many modern technologies for race management with an automated on-line entry and payment system, a dedicated web site with over 1,000 recipients of the ISORA e-newsletters. All races are viewed by the ISORA YB Tracking which has enabled the use of virtual waypoints and unmanned finish lines such as the finish line set in the middle of the Irish Sea following the start in Douglas; this enabled competitors to disperse to their home ports - brilliant!

Tracking would not be possible without the support of our fantastic sponsors Viking Marine and Global Exhibitions for the Coastal Series, Exposure Lights for both Night Races and, of course, our race sponsors.

ISORA has been instrumental in providing shore bases for 'Automatic Identification System' (AIS), with support from Marine Traffic, providing better coverage of the Irish Sea area and making deliveries between ports safer.

The 2018 series was again scored using the ISORA High Points System with more points awarded for more challenging races and more reward in larger fleets. This complex system is possible by using the superb results program 'Sailwave' which also enables publishing of results as competitors finish and for all the different fleets and classes.

2018 was another great offshore series seeing new boats, more competitors, challenging racing and fantastic shore time for social gatherings and the usual warm ISORA camaraderie.

Real Sailors Race Offshore

ISORA - Promoting the sport of offshore racing in the Irish Sea

www.isora.org

Not for profit members association responsible for organising offshore racing in the Irish Sea run by volunteers for the benefit of competitors