Captain’s Report for the 164th Logicalis Gorey Regatta

With a mixed weather forecast the regatta started off with the Ken Podger Memorial Informal Skipper’s Briefing at the Dolphin Pub shortly after 7pm.

There was a short delay due to the fleet of dinghy sailors and support boats form St Catherine’s Sailing club arriving in no wind, many making their own way with help and human propulsion to arrive at Gorey around low tide. The St Catherine’s sailing club feeder race was consequently cut short to finish in St Catherine’s Bay, young sailor, Kirk Ingram (Optimist) winning the Tommy Horton Memorial Trophy.

Saturday’s racing followed with a light and shifty WSW wind but proved popular with most sailors managing to take to the water. Notably, Kobe Gilmore, in Kona Class (Windsurfer) who gained the Morning Cloud trophy for his first regatta, managing to complete the larger course on his second attempt in race 2.

There were many notable sailors, and very competitive racing as ever in this traditional regatta but one vivid memory from the photo taken of three boats rounding the Gorey Roads Buoy will stay with me for ever, that is Olin Rogers, keeping his nerve, calling for water on the inside of Jeff Speller in his quarter tonner, Too Farr, in turn inside Alex Ohlsen in his J109. The image portrays the theme and ethos of this modern-day regatta in a Traditional format.

I would like to thank all my hard-working committee for their important part in making this Regatta a success, along with our long-standing sponsors, Logicalis, and all the competitors who make this a most memorable event in the sailing calendar.

Following is Philip Jeune’s report for the Jersey Evening Post which was published shortly after the event.



Photo : S. Boyle 2022

Logicalis Gorey Regatta 2021

BOATS of all sizes, crews of all ages and friendly keen rivalry can always be guaranteed at the Logicalis Gorey Regatta. Less predictable, however, is the weather and so it proved last weekend for the 164th running of this historic event.

Virtually no wind at all for Friday evening’s ’feeder race’ for the dinghies from St Catherine’s to Gorey followed by light and variable winds on Saturday and strong winds gusting up to 30 knots on Sunday all played their part in making this year’s regatta a challenge for both the organisers and the competitors.

Such was the strength of the wind on Sunday that the Race Committee were finally forced to abandon all racing after two initial postponements, their patience not being rewarded as the gusts continued to scud across the Royal Bay of Grouville throughout the afternoon.

A full race programme did go ahead on Saturday, however, with the light and variable wind, regularly shifting between west and south-west, proving lucky for some and less so for others, especially on the upwind legs towards the West Mark close to Grouville Beach.

In the cruiser classes there was close competition among the three Class 2 quarter-tonners. Jeff Speller’s 2Farr took the lead in their two races but lost out to Steve Manning’s Tom Bombadil and Julian Barber’s Super Q in the wind shifts, the latter eventually claiming both victories

The two Class 1 races went to Alex Ohlsson and Neil MacLachlan’s Jai Ho, her imposing black sails making an impressive sight as she sped around the bay, while Roger Atkinson’s Dirty Harry and Debs and Chris Fritot’s Mystique shared the Class 3 honours.

With a record ten entries this year the dayboat class, easily spotted thanks to its preponderance of red sails, saw some intense rivalry, not just among friends but also among families, Will Carnegie in Soda facing competition this year from his father Peter, who recently entered his ninth decade, in Pod.

Ben Jones, always consistent in Baloo, once again took overall victory in this class after three races but youth gave way to experience in the Carnegie clan with Peter taking second place and Will third.

Saturday’s breeze certainly suited the dinghies, the upwind beat providing plenty of opportunities for races to be won or lost. In the juniors Oliver Boyle and Kai Surcouf had a close battle, rounding the West Mark within a few boat lengths of each other, Kai claiming first place.

Other dinghy victories went to Jason Romer and James Tilley in their Lasers and Grace Sherrington and Richie Forbes in their Feva XL, and it was good to see former St Catherine’s Sailing Club Commodore Dave Jones leading the fleet in his Olympic Class 505 with crew Geoff Blackstone.

Windsurfers are also catered for in the regatta – Michael Millar took the honours this year but a special award was made to ten-year-old Kobe Gilmore, probably the youngest windsurfer ever to compete. He didn't manage to complete the first race but he came back for more and with a good dose of determination completed the second course and was awarded the Morning Cloud Trophy for his efforts.

At the prize-giving ceremony on Sunday evening, held at Bella’s Café at Haut de la Garenne, Gorey Regatta Association Captain Justin Horton thanked all those involved in making the 164th regatta a success, despite the vagaries of the weather, and in particular paid tribute to long-standing sponsors Logicalis and also the team led by Race Officer Bill Harris.

TROPHY WINNERS

Cruising yachts

De Faye Memorial Trophy & Glendewar Challenge Cup, Jai Ho (Alex Ohlsson); Stevens Centenary Challenge Cup, Le Riche Challenge Cup & Richardson Trophy, Super Q (Julian Barber); Betty Bruce Challenge Cup & Fairey Cup, Dirty Harry (Roger Atkinson); C Austin Potter Trophy & the 150th Gorey Regatta Trophy, Mystique (Debs & Chris Fritot).

Dayboats

Orviss Challenge Cup, Baloo (Ben Jones).

Windsurfers

Windsurfer Extra Cup, Michael Miller.

Dinghies

Assinder Cup, Jason Romer, Laser standard; Fifth Gorey Cup, Grace Sherrington & Richie Forbes, Feva XL; George Thomas Labey Memorial Cup, Kai Surcouf, Laser radial; Norman Challenge Cup, James Tilley, Laser standard.

Special trophies

Tommy Horton Memorial Trophy, Kirk Ingram, Optimist; Morning Cloud Trophy, Kobe Gilmore, windsurfer.

ENDS