

ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS THE RACING

The Championship was held on Lough Money just three miles from Down Patrick and the fine old coaching house called Denvers where most competitors had one or two very pleasant nights. Brian O'neil had the marks out and course set as the competitors arrived, 16 in all for two days superb racing in top suit conditions, at times a little light but we always kept moving. The wind blew straight down the lake on day one and the control area was all the bank, so the yachts were not too far away on any point of sailing. Racing got under way around 1015 am, and the world champion Rob Walsh stamped his authority with a first and second in the first two races, races three and four saw Jeff kay post a couple of bullets but lacked consistency with his Britpop and that is where Rob who incidentally tly was sailing for Scotland at this event and Josh King scored rarely being out of the top four in the first 6 races, another inconsistency mover was Derick Priestly scoring some firsts and seconds but then putting down some high scores, Dave burke the same story. The brits were well represented as were the scots with Ian Dundas sailing a wooden I.O.M and getting some nice results. The beats were different almost every time and if you got away with speed at the start and managed to get onto port tack you were half way to getting a decent result. Lunch time came and the host supplied a really good spread of sandwiches and some tasty vegetable soup followed by cake and tea or coffee.

Racing resumed after lunch with a tad more breeze and Josh posted a couple of first and a second putting pressure on Rob, as the day wore on it was a real battle for these two including an incident just before the weather mark which involved Ian Dundas but did not affect him the chat went on for two lengths of the course and handbags were out, Robbie finally doing a turn but the incident not solved, Out came the plastic boats on the footpath and plenty more handbags. Until they both finally agreed to disagree all in good spirits. As the afternoon wore on Steve Taylor was putting together some fine performances with his Wooden I.O.M posting several seconds and a first, Alex Corey was not having the best of days chancing his arm on more than one occasion but did manage to gain a win in race 11, Nigel Brown again was inconsistent on the day but again he managed a first in race 16. Mick Chamberlain seemed to improve as the day went on, and at the end of the day was in fourth position behind Josh, Rob and Steve,

Another night at the Barn with food drink a plenty and great hospitality, and a return to the Lough with a bit more breeze still a good top suit breeze but it had switched 180 degrees. The racing would only be until 1pm to allow the competitors to pack up have the prize giving and then for most a nice lunch at the barn before heading home. Rob had a bit of catching up to do and it was not going to be easy but he posted two bullets with Josh not too far behind , Mick Chamberlain for a change being the most consistent of the rest not being out of the top three for the last three races. Mick puts it down to the three pints of Guinness the night before, the first time he has ever tasted the Irish stout and is now hooked. The racing duly finished with Josh on top and Rob second Steve Taylor was third and Mick C fourth.

The racing was superb and most enjoyable in a friendly and relaxed way a definite for next year's calendar.

Scotland won the team trophy and Nigel and Sue brown presented the prizes as well as having a nice bottle of whisky presented to them for sponsoring the event.

Micky C

Lincoln MYC