

French National Championships – Brest – 2010

Andy Foskett found a dry place of shelter from the gales and rain of the North Seas and wrote to us before the final ceremony at the French Nationals in Brest:

Mon

8-15kts southerly breeze and a knot of tide running west caused made for some interesting bunching at the committee boat on starboard bias line for the first race of the qualifiers. Both flights had 3 or 4 attempts and the black flag took its toll. Race 2 was more of the same plus a 20 degree right shift with some 10 boats being disqualified. When the line was finally readjusted with plenty of port bias for race 3 the breeze went left and the fleet headed for the pin struggling to beat along the line. More black flags followed some collecting their second or third of the day!

Tue

15-20kts SW, produced 3 exciting races for both fleets despite the drizzle and poor visibility. Those spotting the stronger tide towards the shipping channel on the right of the course had an advantage.

Tired sailors returned to shore as the sun came out in time to dry all the wet kit.

Wed

The Raid, a special race to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 420 dinghy was due to take place under the suspension bridge opposite the Centre Nautique but 25-35kts kept the AP on the flag pole until racing was abandoned after lunch. However the celebrations continued in the evening with sailors enjoying a free meal provided by the host club.

Thurs

Gold and silver fleets now posted and with more gales forecast the officials, seeing a possible window in the weather decided to launch the gold fleet at 9am and keep silver ashore (much to the frustration of some!). With 18 to 25kts W breeze and big waves the gold fleet battled the elements for 3 races. Silver fleet was launched but after a general recall and two broken masts were sent ashore as the breeze increased. Our safety boat volunteers returned somewhat damp and dishevelled having been worked hard all day. Wind increased to 30-40kts in afternoon and boats and campers were strapped down.

Friday

The sailors gathered for a group photograph and the wind continued to blow. Once again gold fleet were launched in 20-28 kts and silver had to stay ashore. After 2 hard races gold fleet came ashore and silver was launched probably to just do one race.

More to follow.....