

Regatta report DSSC May 2017

We have just concluded our Annual Regatta and it turned out to be one of the strangest I can recall in twenty years of living in Cyprus! *They say that sailors are pre-occupied with the weather, quite rightly so!* The forecasts that we read days before, suggested strong winds from the south west. Not good news since we all know that this is going to mean big waves for small dinghies!

It proved to be so. I spent all day on Friday watching the winds build, change direction, drop a little, build again until we had a good force 5, (with lively gusts of 6) As we were aiming to get in a single race at 15.30 for the General Handicap we had to make the call to cancel. Not any easy choice but one over which we had no control. Later that evening we retired to the upstairs bar and were treated to a fantastic dinner with a couple of glasses, hoping the next day would bring a better promise of fair winds.

This year we also had a wonderful turnout of some thirty boats, a recent record, so we were very keen to get at least some sailing in! Derek, our Principal Race Officer, made the sensible choice not to bring his yacht down from Larnaca Marina, due to the adverse wind conditions.

Saturday morning saw early strong winds and rain squalls, great for the happy campers in Scout Wood! By the time we did the Welcome and Race Brief it was evident that there would be no way for our Safety Crews to give a guarantee of covering any kind of rescue situation, so, yet again we had to make the call to cancel! It was at this point that we wondered if we might be able to retrieve anything which would resemble a Sailing Regatta at all! To brighten the morning, we watched spellbound as Totis Jordanou rigged his Laser and set off for a jaunt across the bay. It has to be said that the waves were pretty enormous and winds gusting 25/30 knots. He is after all the current National champion and the heavy weather training partner for the Cypriot Olympic Silver Medallist. Not bad considering he is only 18 years of age!

The Jewel in the Crown was our Regatta Party. Not two hours before the start of this party we were treated to two mighty storms with rain/hail/lightning and loud bangs, accompanied by one amazing gust of 40 knots! However in true stoical fashion we swept the water off the patio, mopped down the chairs and tables and were all set to entertain eighty plus people for dinner and disco!

“One of the best Regatta Parties ever!” I heard from several guests. We had a ball. Brilliant food, lots of liquid refreshment and great company with an outstanding Disco. One of the best was right!

Our early start on Sunday paid off. The focus was simply the Series Racing and we aimed to get as many races as possible into the weather window that we had. Everyone was keen to go and Derek set a slightly shortened course to accommodate this. Light winds prevailed at the start but halfway up the beat the wind filled in and we had two races in bright sunshine and force 4 breezes. Perfect “Champagne sailing!”

Unfortunately, this was not such good news for our Junior Fleet. Recently qualified to RYA Stage Two they all did brilliantly to get around their first Regatta course. Not too many tears for these young kids and a few scary moments for them but they completed the race. Wonderful stuff!

In to shore for a break and then out for the final two races, back to back. The fleets were looking rather depleted by now, not surprising as the winds were a good force five and building with interesting waves! One race was completed and then into to shore for safety reasons.

All in all, we managed to fit in a mere three races over the entire weekend! It could have been worse and we at least had a great party atmosphere with sailing friends in our wonderful club!

Boats packed away and it was time for the (slightly early) Prize giving. Club Commodore, Major Sarah Raitt presented the prizes and Rear Commodore, Chris Dodds thanked our members for their massive and combined efforts to make our Regatta the success that it was.

It is not possible to name all of these helpers but I would personally like to thank our wonderful catering organiser, Jenny Toumazi and her team, our tireless Race Desk, Helen Hows, Steve on the

results, Robert Higham and his incredible Safety Team who did so much to keep us all safe, beach master and friend, Bernie Ryan and all the support we got from parents, (of the youth sailors) and other helpers, jumping into the water to retrieve boats. Derek and Caterina and the use of their yacht, controlling the races and everyone else who played a part in making this Regatta a success.

We all know that we have a fantastic sailing club and it's great to see so many people regularly sailing and using the facilities and giving the club a real buzz!

The complete regatta results can be viewed on our website: www.dhekeliasailing.com

Thanks to all!

Andy Cherry Sailing Secretary