

Client: Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta Print
Source: The Irish Examiner (Sport)
Date: 08 July 2017
Page: 16
Reach: 30964
Size: 203cm2
Value: 2009.7

Sisk wows the field at Dun Laoghaire

David Branigan

Sailing

As the second half of the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta awaits its start later this morning, organisers opted to postpone the start of racing by one hour, apparently due to the calm wind forecast.

Apparently by coincidence, the later start will cater for breakfast screenings of the Lions Test match at the four waterfront clubs hosting the 475-boat regatta.

However, wind has been an

issue for the event so far but with plenty of exceptions around the seven course areas the stretch from close to the Dublin city shoreline as far south as Bray in Co. Wicklow.

It was here in near calm winds yesterday that the coastal course was finished instead of inside Dun Laoghaire Harbour seven miles away.

That saw a win for George Sisk's WOW! from the Royal Irish Yacht Club that boosted the Farr 42-footer up the 31-strong class to fifth place after enduring a 14th place in

Thursday's opening race.

Sisk had a 25-minute lead on the water when the race was finished off Bray Sailing Club and scored using the Yellow-brick offshore race tracking system.

But on IRC corrected handicap time, his lead was cut to barely more than a minute as Kenny Rumball's J109 Jedi from the Irish National Sailing School placed second and takes the overall lead of the class thanks to a fifth place in race one.

Meanwhile in Division 0

that also sailed the coastal course yesterday, a win for Conor Phelan's Jump Juice brings the Crosshaven boat into contention once more against Tony Ackland's Dark Angel from Swansea after fix-

ing some technical issues on Thursday.

"It was challenging and very tricky, especially as - unusually - we had a downwind start so you approach the (start) line at speed and it's very exciting," commented Jump Juice tactician Maurice 'Prof' O'Connell. "It was neck

and neck the whole way down to the East Kish mark when we just managed to get ahead of Dark Angel." O'Connell declared himself supportive of including Coastal Race in the regatta format although the near calm conditions offshore were testing.

Closer to land, the dinghy classes and smaller keelboats enjoyed steady winds for most of the day interspersed with occasional lulls.

Guy Kilroy's Swift leads the Water Wag class, the world's oldest one-design dinghy with

four straight wins.

Elsewhere in the 34-event regatta, Richard Colwell's Corby 25 Fusion from Howth Yacht Club is counting four race wins to top Division 3 on IRC handicap while the single race discard allowed him to drop a fifth place from the final race.

Racing continues today and tomorrow when the final day is expected to conclude with several of the fleets finishing inside the harbour that is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year.