

UK Laser Association

LASER 4.7 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - HOURTIN, FRANCE

RACE DAYS 4 & 5 – Friday, 30 July

Report from John Stanley-Whyte

Day 4 and last day of the qualifying series yesterday finally saw the breeze kick in with 16kts recorded on the race course for the second race. Consequently many of the older and bigger sailors had better days. In the lighter wind first race Ollie Sellers continued his fine form with a great 5th, but unfortunately could not quite make the Silver fleet but is well placed towards the top of bronze. James Hazelwood had a hard day and lost his chance to be the only GBR sailor in Gold fleet, however he remains well placed in silver. Gear failure beginning to happen so all gave their boats a good once over last night to ensure all well for today.

In the Girls' fleet Georgina Povall finished in 39th to claim a solid Gold fleet placing and is pleased to be ahead of some of the girls that beat her at the Worlds at Easter.

The team dinner was a great effort by Greg O'Brien and Margaret Bridgeman, and despite the restaurant having bitten off more than they could chew, as the 54 of us arrived through the doors, all enjoyed the food and wine and had a good laugh or two as well. Many thanks to you both and we are all impressed with your negotiating skills in French.

The finals series has started this afternoon, Two races today and two tomorrow. Lighter winds so far today but the temperature is rising so we may get more later. Forecast for tomorrow not so good on the wind front and we will all be up early as the SIs have been amended bringing the start time forward to 1130 for the last day.

For the record the 18 boys ended up with three in Silver, six in Bronze and 9 in Emerald. The girls only have two fleets and the split is one in Gold and five in Silver.