

UK Laser Association

2010 MASTERS' EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - CYPRUS

Report from Ian Rawet

Ancient Brits on Tour

Cyprus Diary – Wednesday, 28th April

Bad start to the day – found out that after all that work yesterday I was OCS. At least I was in good company with John R and Paul N.

The RO promised 20knots today and two races. The wind though was from the wrong direction – SE. We need a West or SW here to get the sea breeze. Watching the horizon for wind is becoming a habit here. By 11h30 we were getting the right signs and off the RO sailed. A nice breeze followed and the beach had not seen so much activity for ages. The light weight ladies were concerned over the wind strength but when we arrived at the starting area, some 750 metres or so from the beach the wind was a lot calmer down to around 15knots. So there is more wind along the shore. Another lesson learned.

The windward mark is in the same direction again 220 so we are going to get a drag race up the shore again. More and more sailors as realising that going out to sea is bad news. Mixed with the stronger wind there is going to be a change in the pack.

Take a conservative place in the middle of the line and off we go – no sound signal so we must all be clear – perhaps the slightly longer line is helping. Tack onto to port for the long leg up the shore. Those who started from off the committee boat start to appear coming through on starboard but I can not quite clear some of them and have to tack and head out to sea and the mark too early. Lee bow a CYP lady and she tacks and so do I but have fallen back into the pack. Right about the mix, FRA and NZL boats are also here.

Round the mark and down the run. Catch up the leaders and have to go right and out to sea at the gate. Tack for clear wind as soon as possible and grind back along the shore. The leader tack, must make a positive move not to tack too early and miss the shift up to the mark that seems to occur. Tack and it looks good up with the leaders. The shift is better than I thought and have to start reaching into the mark. A couple of boats get into the mix and off on the reach. Down the run get some really good waves and catch up right behind a FRA boat. Need to get past as he is a GGM. Through the gate and the final reach, pass the FRA and hold it through the last short beat to the line.

The wind strength is reducing slightly for the second race and probably means that there will be some holes. Still a drag race on port though. A clean start from the centre of the line tack and off we go. Need as much speed as possible. The committee boat starters find the lay line first but I hold on for the lift. There it is, tack and get to the mark in the top bunch. The run is more gentle this time and not so much opportunity to catch up. Fall back into the pack a little as I sail into a hole with the rest of the front bunch. Manage to get around the port mark of the gate this time and head off down the shore. Pinch a bit to creep up wind to force the followers to drop down and keep them behind. It proves very successful and get around the top mark with the leaders and clear of the pack. A good race gets me past a NZL boat and hold him off down the run and the next reach to get a good finish.

It's a Cyprus night at the Centre tonight so not too much rest and three races are threatened tomorrow.