

UK Laser Association

2010 MASTERS' EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - CYPRUS

Report from Ian Rawet

Ancient Brits on Tour

Cyprus Diary – Friday, 30th April

Down at the beach by 09h30 and there is already a south westerly breeze. The locals are saying that there will be a stiff breeze today so it will be in the same direction but a little stronger. The committee boat arrives at 10h15 and the breeze is building so everyone rushes to get ready for the last drag races of the week.

Sure enough the course is set at 230 again and we go for the start. The followers are close but I need to be conservative as I have two bad, and one poor result to contain. Tack onto port as usual and graunch down to the lay line. It looks ok, Mike K and I look to be close to the front. That's odd we have not seen the wind shift but the tail end of the fleet are coming in on port and between us and the mark. Down the run the fleet is spread out and the wind fills in from behind causing huge bunch at the gate. Go left as the followers are going right – work the boat up the shore and recover some of the places. Only a run, the reach and the finishing beat to go. Follow Mike K across the line but probably too far down for the result I required. It looks as if Mike has the GGM prize in the bag but the FRA guys are ahead so it looks bad for me.



Mike Kinnear leads Robert Cage into the final windward mark

Last start then and the followers are up close. The wind has shifted a little to the left which would indicate go farther out to sea. A bunch of leaders go that way which confused the followers and they gradually tack away. Get a shift and we all tack. Head off down to the lay line but the FRA sailors tacked straight off the committee boat and ignored the wind shift. They were in front by a long way. The middle bunch spread out down the run and through the gate. Take the starboard route and head off out to sea. Get a wind shift for the beat down to the

lay line. A good reach across the top, gets me closer and closer to the front. The bottom reach is a hum dinger and I am right behind the leading boats and Mike K again. A GER gets the final beat wrong and I capture another place. I doubt that this is good enough though.

Sure enough the results show that the earlier mistakes were too costly, I get 4th, one point from Poopy Marcon (FRA) in 3rd, Jacky Nebrel (FRA) was 2nd and Mike Kinnear (GBR) 1st.

The GBR squad had a fair share of the results with Ian Jones taking the Radial Apprentice prize, Rob Cage 2nd in the Masters and in the Grand Masters Peter Whipp 1st, John Reay 2nd and Mike Pridham 3rd. In the Grand Master Standard rig, Charles Campion was 3rd and Paul Nicholson came in 4th.

There was some talk about having a Laser Worlds here. This is a great sailing venue and there is plenty of accommodation nearby. Nearly all the boats here were imported for charter and they had to be moved from the beach every night so there are serious logistics issues to solve. I am having trouble though visualising 400 boats on this race track beating to windward up the beach everyday.

This was a super event and everyone enjoyed the trip. Well done Cyprus.