

**2014 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship**

A final report from the ISAF Technical Delegate

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The 2014 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship was held in Cork, IRL between 3 to 8 June 2014.

**2. Teams**

- 2.1 13 teams entered the event from 9 countries. Five of the skippers were in the top 10 of the ISAF Women's Match Race Rankings. One IRL team attended 'as of right' under the NOR place granted to the Host MNA. In addition, another wildcard was granted to another unranked IRL team as the request of the OA.

**3. Officials**

- 3.1 ISAF appointed the ISAF Course Representative (Maria Torrijo MOLL IRO (ESP)), the Chief Umpire (Steve WRIGLEY IU (USA) and seven other umpires (five International and two National).
- 3.2 All the ISAF race officials performed well and at the standard expected of them.
- 3.3 The importance of appointing an ISAF Course Representative was made clear at this event. Race management of match racing at Grade W or 1 level is a specific skilled discipline. Local race officers, even with some match racing experience, often do not have the experience to run the racing at the required level. It is important that ISAF resists attempts by organisers to not have a Course Representative as this then means the Technical Delegate is left to supervise the race management much more than is proper for the role.

**4. Equipment**

- 4.1 The boats used for the Championships were J/80s sailed with a crew of 4 or 5. 8 boats were available throughout the event.
- 4.2 The number of breakdown flags and breakdowns was low notwithstanding the heavy wind conditions and there was a good support service on the water. There was no major damage to any of the boats, but the number of spare spinnakers was an issue (there were only 2 spares). Future organisers must ensure there are an adequate number of spares as racing without spinnakers at a World Championship is not acceptable.

**5. Documentation**

All documentation used at the event complied with ISAF standards.

**6. Course and Format**

- 6.1 The racing areas was in Cork harbour. The area was approximately 15 minutes sail from the venue and had a very good aspect from the headlands. A number of spectators watched the event from this area. The natural harbour of Cork Harbour meant racing was able to continue at the upper wind strength due to the flat water condition.
- 6.2 The format of racing was a round robin, followed by knockout quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. The original intended schedule of racing would have seen the round robin conclude on Day 3, followed by quarter finals. However Day 3 had heavy wind conditions forecast and the decision was taken to conclude the round robin on Day 2 in order to complete it and also

due to uncertainty whether the lower ranked teams would have been able to handle the heavier wind condition on Day 3 (with the potential loss of equipment).

## 7. Media

- 7.1 Media coverage was good for the level of the event, and photos and video footage were available each day for international release.
- 7.2 The event saw co-operation between WIMRA (which manages the WIMR Series) and the ISAF Communications Department. Nevertheless, media and presentational challenges remain whilst the event is the first stage of the WIMR Series (crowning the World Champion at the start of the Series). There remains a strain between the focus of the different media outputs – WIMRA invest resources in attending the event to provide media coverage and so understandably wish the WIMR Series to receive prominence. On the other hand, the event is an ISAF World Championship so that must be the priority focus, however the ISAF Office does not have the resources to send a member of the Communications Department to the event.

## 8. Ceremonies

The opening ceremony was held at the venue and speeches were made by the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee and Admiral of the Royal Cork Yacht Club. The ISAF Technical Delegate and the Admiral spoke at the closing ceremony.

## 9. Results

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Anna KJELLBERG (SWE)       | 8) Claudia PIERCE (NZL)             |
| 2) Camilla ULRIKKEHOLM (DEN)  | 9) Annabel VOSE (GBR)               |
| 3) Stephanie ROBLE (USA)      | 10) Mary O'LOUGHLIN (IRL)           |
| 4) Caroline SYLVAN (SWE)      | 11) Laura DILLON (IRL)              |
| 5) Anne-Claire LE BERRE (FRA) | 12) Lucie SCHEIWILLER (FRA)         |
| 6) Klaartje ZUIDERBAAN (NED)  | 13) Anne Christianne KENTGENS (NED) |
| 7) Lotte MELDGAARD (DEN)      |                                     |

## 10. Summary & Recommendations

- 10.1 The event was a great success and the hospitality of the Royal Cork Yacht Club was excellent. All of the teams said they enjoyed the event.
- 10.2 The overall format of the Championship vis-à-vis the WIMR Series should be reviewed by ISAF to ensure that the maximum benefit for women's match racing is being obtained.
- 10.3 ISAF should continue to appoint an ISAF Course Representative (an IRO experienced in match racing) who is not from the Host MNA.
- 10.4 Future organisers must ensure that enough spare equipment is available.

**Jon Napier**  
**ISAF Technical Delegate**

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