

Interdepartmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR) 2019

It is Monday morning and I am sitting at my desk, nursing bruised knees and tired shoulders, but with a very happy heart! Yes, last week (9-14 June) I took part in my first IDOR. And what an adventure it was!

HASSRA entered two crews this year, skippered by Nerys Legg (Team A) and Kieron Kennedy (Team B). Including HASSRA, 14 crews were racing. HASSRA has an admirable policy of ensuring crews are mixed in terms of gender and level of experience. I was there as a novice; while I had sailed before in my youth, I had forgotten much of what I'd learned, and I certainly hadn't raced.

The experienced crew members were patient and supportive and keen to help you learn. Hopefully they saw some progression over the course of the week! So, if you are thinking of applying next year, don't let lack of experience put you off! And safety is always top of mind.

On the other hand, if you have never sailed and want to apply, you need to consider that sailing conditions can change from calm to rough, accommodation on the boat is quite cramped and you need to be someone who is willing to join in the work...and laughter!

We met our crews and picked up the boats on Sunday and motored to Cowes (Isle of Wight) on the Monday. From Monday to Thursday there were a series of races. Wednesday was the Round the Island Race. However, with little wind the race was shortened. On the Thursday there were three shorter races. By the last we were facing a force 5 – 6 with winds of 30mph and over. Scary but exhilarating!

And the results?

Team B

City of Plymouth Series- 4th, 3rd, 1st, 3rd, 3rd giving a 3rd overall.

Rutherford Appleton Offshore Series- 2nd in the Christchurch Bay race and 4th in the round the Island Race giving a 2nd place overall.

Winner of the Silver Jubilee Trophy (Highest placed first time skipper)

2nd place overall for the regatta

1st place for the pairs together with Five Kingdoms Sailing Club

Team A

Nerys got her first-time skipper award. She did brilliantly, leading in all weathers and across all distances.

1st place for the Charity trophy for raising the most money.

Apart from the actual sailing I'll always remember the team working, the laughter and the speed with which we all bonded. The evenings were filled with enjoyable socials and much laughter.

Will I be applying again? You bet. If you are interested, the race is advertised at the start of the year. Keep a look out!

Kieron Kennedy Skipper on HASSRA B at the helm



HASSRA B in the lead



Racing side by side



Cruising home



Around the Needles