



News from Mirror World Championships

#7—12th August 2005



Mirror World Championships- Östersund, Sweden 2005

In what seems like the blink of an eye, our two weeks here in Sweden are almost over. Friday in the cold and rain, races 9 and 10 were sailed. Fourteen knots average gusting up to 22, grey, 12 deg C with wind chill and rain. Fortunately the breeze made up for the conditions and quite a few of the younger mirror sailors who had been ruling our heavyweights so far in the regatta capsized or broke something.

The conditions were pretty tricky with the wind gusty and very patchy. With the chop tricky to predict and the new windward-ward course, this made for interesting sailing and a great way to end the World Championships.

The second race was abandoned on the last beat due to a mark that drifted and had to be resailed. This didn't cheer us up being relatively lightly clad, but most crews survived - some even sailed without booties just to show how tough they were!

Seiraj gave us a great pre-race talk which resulted in most sailing better with many improving their positions in the last two races.

The final results out of 102 entries were:

Tariq and Kareemah - 36th (U16)
Waldo and Scott - 39th
Brennan and Ricky - 44th (U19)
Fuad and Francois - 46th
Nigel and Candice - 58th
Marvin and Roscoe - 63rd
Eric and Charl - 69th
Robert and James - 75th (U16)
Kuba and Daniel - 82nd
Gary and Megan - 88th
Gareth and Abigail - 90th
Lenio and Keenan - 98th (U19)

The Irish team won it again and needless to say they celebrated in grand style. Their winner Ross Kearney is U19. Interesting for me was that 10 helms were U16, highest placed 7th and 58 were J19 with the highest placed first.

With the dampness yesterday we are happy to see some sun today, albeit with a cold wind. As I write, the guys are cleaning out and loading the container, packing everything for the trip back to warmth and sensible prices. The prize giving is this afternoon and most of us catch the train at 9 this evening to reach Stockholm at 3 tomorrow morning. From there it's a flight to London and then a Sunday evening flight back to South Africa - a long and slow trip.

We made many useful contacts while here and received great support for the next Mirror World Championships in Nelson Mandela Bay (PE) in 2007. We are also planning to build on experience gained here and get some of our boats into contention in our home waters. There is no doubt that we have a lot to learn, out with some effort and our local talent, sailing, coaching and boat building we can improve throughout the fleet.

More information see www.mirrorworlds2007.com or follow the links from www.mirror.org.za.

