



IMA MULTIHULL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

The much anticipated return to Multihull event racing took place at Swords Sailing Club on the 9th & 10th of October with the IMA National Championships 2021.

There was a strong 18 boat turnout from across the country with fleets from Cork, Galway, Ballyholme & Blessington attending alongside the Swords home fleet on quite a variety of boats including F18, Hurricane 5.9, Dart 16, Spitfire, Viper, Catapult & Topcat.

The joy at being back at an event was very much on display as the boats were being rigged on the SSBC green, everyone definitely delighted to be back racing after a 2 year break in multihull event sailing.



Day 1 and the wind early on was almost non existent, the forecast promised more so half hourly postponements were put in place by OOD Niall Gallaher MYC. We didn't have to wait long though as the sun came out the breeze filled in and the boats hit the water for a 12:30pm first gun.

4 races were completed on day one in near perfect conditions for the entire fleet with the wind filling in more than forecast. A windward leeward course with leeward gate was set in a mostly south westerly breeze by a very efficient team of race officials and RIB crew. Wind speeds at average 10knots and temperatures at 16-18dec made for exceptionality enjoyable and comfortable conditions considering the time of year.

The day was dominated by Adrian Allen & Barry Swanston (BYC) on a Nacra Evolution (F18) bringing in 3 firsts. But staying in contention Matt McNichol & Thomas Nixon on a Nacra Infusion(F18), with a first in race 3 and 2nds in the other races they stood in 2nd overnight.

In the class 2 boats Gary Mangan((MBSC) sailing a Dart16 led the way with a solid performance.

Evening barbecue & drinks were followed with early to bed for all the competitors as tiredness kicked in but happy faces all round.



Day two saw an early mist across the water which cleared right on time for a 10:55am first gun, a breeze more westerly allowing almost full use of the length of the estuary, wind speed a little lighter than day one with 2 races scheduled.

McNichol & Nixon raced a near perfect two races calling every tack and gybe spot on and choosing the right side of the course every time bringing them home with a stunning 2 wins edging out Allen & Swanston on count back.

Gary Mangan sailed well to hold on to top spot in class 2 despite a strong challenge from dad and brother Dermot & Neil.

A clearly delighted Matt McNichol and Thomas Nixon lifted the 2021 IMA National Championship trophy.

Congratulations to you both and to all the place winners



Overall Top 3

1. Matt McNichol, Thomas Nixon BYC
2. Adrian Allen, Barry Swanston BYC
3. Matt McMurty, Oliver Haig BYC

C2 and Dart16 Champion

1. Gary Mangan MBSC

Hurricane 5.9 Donny McKay Challenge & Champions

1. Simon and Anne O’Gorman SSBC

Full Results-

<https://www.swordssailing.ie/club-files/results/2021/2021-nationals-overall.htm>

By Stephen Broaders (SSBC)

Photo on water by Paul Rainey.