

HYERE OLYMPIC CLASSES REGATTA 2005

April 21-29, 2005

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GBR 75*

The Semaine Olympique Française (French Olympic Week) is one of France's major sporting events for the last 37 years. This event of the International tour is the European meeting of the best sailors of the world. Welcoming around 1000 competitors from 40 countries, competing one week long in Hyères waters. This event is the opportunity for the national teams to compete with the same regatta format as the Olympic Games, excepted that they can register up to 8 representatives in each class for each country.



The best Olympic Medallists indeed use to participate in this worldwide event, famous for its perfect and strict organisation but also for its ideal waters, rounded with the Iles d'Or : Porquerolles, Port Cros and Le Levant. This year was a great regatta, seeing a variety of wind conditions to tax the sailors.

The racing started on the Sunday, however with winds over 30 knots only the 470's and Mistral's got racing. I must admit whilst enjoying a leisurely lunch in one of the fine Marina restaurants and looking out at the howling wind and rain, I was pleased I was not sailing 470's anymore and had switched to the 2.4.

Monday the wind had dropped slightly, but was still a steady 20 knots gusting 25. The race officer managed to give us two very long races (obviously felt he needed to make up for the day before). The conditions were awesome with some great waves. I won both races, Andrew Millband finished 2nd in the first and was lying 2nd in the second race until his shroud broke up the last beat, allowing Allan Smith to move in to second place.



By Tuesday, the wind had increased. The forecast was not good either where it called for the wind to continue building through out the day. The postponement went up and we all thought that was it for the day, but an hour later it came down and we were off. When I got down to the start, it was a good 25 knots gusting over 30. Some boats were already having problems, and when the gun went, I thought I would see the postponed go ashore flags up, but instead it was our 5 minutes. Race on! Well all I can say is it's probably the windiest I have ever raced a 2.4mR. Downwind was very exciting! I had a lead by the first windward mark and decided to play it safe and nurse the boat around the rest of the course to minimise the risk of any gear failure. Needless to say as soon as I crossed the finish line I was told to go straight in and there were no more races for the day. There was a fair amount of gear failure and swamped boats, but at least we all raced which is more than the Finn class managed. They got out to their start and were sent straight back in.

Wednesday and at last we were in to sea breezes and a nice 6 knots. I expected the racing to be closer in the lighter winds, which I think it was in the middle of the fleet. However I had really good boat speed and combined with a couple of good starts, allowed me to pull away from the rest of the fleet and win both races. There was a good battle for 2nd and 3rd between Andrew Millband and Allan

Smith, with the overall results that evening standing with me leading, Allan in second and Andrew third.

Thursday was another nice sea breeze day with the same wind direction as the day before. Again I had a nice lead by the top mark and extended as the race went on to take my 6th win of the regatta. Mike Cogswell had a storming day with two 2nd (must have been because his dad was watching from the RIB). This placed him 3rd overall after Andrew Millband was OCS in the second race dropping him out of the top four. Having won the second race of the

day as well, and with only one race planned for the last day, I had won with a race to spare and did not need to sail on the Friday. This was great as it was my Birthday on Friday and the celebrations could begin that night.



By Friday, I was already packed and able to enjoy some South of France sun, whilst the other sailors hung around waiting for the postponement to come down. Eventually it did and they got out racing in a light southwesterly breeze. Mike Cogswell had a slim chance of moving in to second if he could win the race and Allan finished outside the top four. He tried a daring start on port, which went a little pear shaped and ended up with him tangled up with Val Millward.

After much shouting from Val, Mike decided to retire as he was obviously not going to win, and he would still finish 3rd overall and could beat the rush for the crane at the end of the day. Andrew Millband went on to win the race, but with only one discard and having to count a DNF from the race when his shroud broke, he could only manage 4th overall.

Results after 8 races (Discards : 1) (15 entries)

Pos	Sail	Competitors	Pts Net	Pts tot	r.1	r.2	r.3	r.4	r.5	r.6	r.7	r.8	Club/Country
1	GBR 75	LUCAS Helena	7.00	23.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	DNF	Great Britain
2	GBR 5	SMITH Allan	22.00	28.00	6	2	2	3	2	4	4	5	Great Britain
3	GBR 79	COGSWELL Michael	29.00	45.00	3	9	4	4	5	2	2	DNF	QMSC
4	GBR 72	MILLBAND Andrew	30.00	46.00	2	DNF	3	2	3	3	OCS	1	Great Britain
5	GBR 70	MILLWARD Valerie	38.00	50.00	5	4	6	42	9	7	5	2	RUTLAND
6	FRA 9	FULGONI Gerard	39.00	47.00	7	5	7	7	4	6	8	3	I.Y.C DE HYERES
7	FRA 15	TOURNEUX Hervé	39.00	47.00	4	6	5	5	6	8	7	6	S R VANNES
8	FRA 1	BALLE Philippe	52.00	64.00	42	8	8	10	8	5	6	7	France
9	GBR 64	HARDING brian	63.00	79.00	8	7	DNF	6	10	14	10	8	CCYC
10	GRE 3	CHRISTOFOROY Vasilis	68.00	84.00	9	DNF	DNF	11	DNF	9	3	4	Greece
11	FRA 16	VENNIN Jean-Marie	70.00	86.00	11	3	DNF	9	11	10	OCS	10	Y C ILE DE FRANCE
12	FRA 14	CHAFFARD Loic	78.00	94.00	10	DNF	DNF	8	7	13	12	12	S R V ANNECY
13	FRA 13	MORAINES Magali	81.00	97.00	13	DNF	9	14	13	12	11	9	HANDIVOILE SOUSTONS
14	FRA 8	MIRC Jean-Claude	87.00	103.00	15	DNF	DNF	13	12	11	9	11	HANDI VOILE EN MIDI-
15	GBR 56	PREVITE Andrew	100.00	116.00	14	DNF	DNF	15	14	15	13	13	QUEEN MARY SC

Penalties and redress : 17 (15 DNF ; 2 OCS)