



11 BOATS ENTERED TO DELIVER AN EXCELLENT EVENT – AUGUST 2017

# National Championships 2017 Howth

THE SHIPMAN ASSOCIATION 

## Race Report

by Brendan Finnucane

The Shipman National Championships were sailed under the burgee of the Howth Yacht Club on 26-27 August 2017, with Rupert Jeffares the Race Officer.

And what an event it was....

Prepare for Battle:

Shipmans were spotted on the horizon from the early afternoon on Friday as the fleet decanted from Dublin Bay into Howth. Free berthing and a warm welcome was provided by Howth Yacht Club, and members enjoyed a few drinks in the bar until the wrong side of midnight.

Final refreshments were offered on board 'The Den' and the night ended in the small hours.



### Race 1 - Saturday

We awoke to brilliant sunshine but light to very light west/north westerly winds. The unfamiliar surroundings and tide conditions added to the frisson of the occasion.

The 1st race was closely contested with the lead changing hands many times; Viking had an early narrow lead but was hotly pursued by Jo Slim, Two Can, The Den, and Invader. When Viking ran into a hole the chasing pack passed her, and Jo Slim took her first of what was to be a clean sweep of the honors.

#### Result Race 1

1 Jo Slim 2) Twocan 3)The Den 4) Invader



### Race 2 - Saturday

On race 2 Joe Slim tacked on to port at the pin end of the line and stayed on the right-hand side of the course while the remainder of the fleet kept to the left-hand side. They reached the weather mark well ahead of the rest of the fleet and maintained a commanding lead to the finishing line.

A closely fought contest ensued for the remaining places between Invader, Poppy, Barossa, and Viking.

#### Result Race 2

1) Jo Slim 2) Invader 3) Poppy 4)Barossa



### Race 3

The 3rd race followed the pattern of the previous 2 races, with light unpredictable winds and skillful sailing required. The fleet was tightly bunched at the weather mark. On the next legs, gaps began to emerge between those with wind and those who had fallen into holes. Jo Slim, closely matched by Poppy and Two Can, pursued by The Den and Barossa made up the leading group of boats.

#### Result Race 3

1) Jo Slim 2)Poppy 3) Two Can 4) The Den

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### Race 4

Race 4

provided a great finale. Wind and spinnakers falling. Lots of holes emerged on the course.

A tightly bunched group on the final downwind leg, and a battle back upwind for a very tight finish. Jo Slim maintained a comfortable lead to finish on 1hr 20, just 3 minutes ahead of local boy Gerry Glynn on Invader, and the next 4 finishers crossing the line in a 2 minute window, demonstrating the fun and intensity of matched fleet racing.

#### Result Race 4

1) Jo Slim 2) Invader 3) Poppy 4) Barossa

### CONGRATULATIONS JO SLIM!



#### OVERALL WINNERS

##### Scratch

1) Jo Slim 2) Invader 3) Poppy 4) Twocan

##### Handicap

1) Jo Slim 2) Poppy 3) The Den 4) Twocan



#### MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

Your committee welcome all ideas and feedback. Volunteers for office too!

##### CONTACT

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*Many thanks to the race officers, our organizer host John Doran, The Commodore, the catering team and all at HYC for an excellent event.*