



Bronze in Palma

This was the first year the 2.4mR had been invited to take part in the Princess Sophia Regatta and was the first European regatta on the World Cup circuit. It was also my first regatta after a nice long break since the Games in September.

My main objective was to use it as a warm up and blow away the cob webs before Hyeres. I also had some new sails from the North U.K sail loft to test out. As we were treating it as a low key regatta, we had decided to save some of our coaching days and do the regatta without Adam (our coach) and catch up with him in Hyeres. It did prove to be an interesting experience. Suddenly sail changes on the water were out of the question, although Meg reckoned you could sail with a spare jib inside the boat. The amount of spare kit I had with me there was barely enough room for me let alone a jib. I also didn't fancy my chances of staying on board whilst sitting on the bow trying to change it. So it was a case of grab some sails for the day, hope the forecast was right and get on with it.

There was a good turn out with 18 boats competing, although most of these were Spanish. The Dutch had come with their full team and the week turned into a show down between the Dutch and the British.

We had a real mix of conditions and far too much rain for my liking! I had been hoping for some nice Palma sun. The racing was close and going in to the last day I was lying 3rd only one point of second and five off first with 3 races scheduled. The two Dutch sailors Thierry and Andre occupied first and second. We had really shifty conditions and I struggled to find my rhythm. Thierry and Andre were sailing well, and I just couldn't take any points off them.

I finished the regatta in 3rd in bronze medal position. A good start to the season which I hope to improve on.

As I had 4 days before I needed to be in Hyeres I decided to spend them cycling in Palma. The weather had different ideas though and I had to plan routes around the rain clouds, but managed to get a few good rides in without getting too soggy.

I had a chilled easy drive to Hyeres, thanks to the luxury provided by Volvo and I'm now sitting in my apartment, all boat work done, rigged ready to go racing again!