

**Sonata National Championships 2005**

This year's Sonata Nationals were held for the first time under the burgee of South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club, Abersoch, North Wales on the 5–9th September. With title sponsorship from International Paints and main sponsors Haulfryn Homes, Wombat Clothing and Network Yacht Brokers showing their support, the event was on track to be a success from the start.

A fleet of fifteen visitors joined the fledgling four boat home fleet for a week of extreme conditions including no wind, lots of wind, scorching sunshine and thunderstorms. After a welcome evening of chilli and beer courtesy of Keels on Wheels, the boats all launched from nearby Hafan Pwllheli for the practice race on Sunday with an easterly wind and a swell running—a good introduction to the week.

**Monday**

Monday dawned with blue skies, sunshine and a force 2 wind and the Principal Race Officer Richard Date set the fleet off on Olympic Courses after several wind shifts altered his start line. The fleet eagerly started with Steve Goacher and his crew on Eric the Boat leading, pursued by Martin Price in High and Dry and Neil McLure in So. The local dolphins lined up to watch the finish with Eric winning ahead of High and Dry, Mark Taylor in Saraband and Martin Hartley in A Sharp Exit. For the crew of Sharp Exit this was to be their only race, as the skipper Martin Hartley injured his back and was out of racing for the week. The fleet started a second race but as the wind disappeared to nothing the PRO cancelled racing for the day.

**Tuesday**

Tuesday hotter with even less wind, so there was no racing, but plenty of sunbathing took place on the top deck of the sailing club overlooking Cardigan Bay and Snowdonia.

**Wednesday**

The wind and rain arrived on Wednesday with a vengeance, with 22–25 knots gusting to 39 knots during the final race of the day, and half the fleet changing to their No 2 genoa. The PRO set a heavy schedule of four windward leeward races of 45–65 minutes each, which tested even the top of the fleet. Eric the boat carried on from Monday by winning all four races with High and Dry, So and Murray Caldwell, of Nicholson Hughes Sails, in Pied Piper continuing their good form. There were good results from John Putt and his Parkstone crew in Piccolo, Buzz Factor, helmed by Steve Bee who sailed down from the Isle of Man, Coniston's Malcolm Friar in Flashpoint and Gareth McLanis in Sequoia. There were a few broaches, Chinese jibes and the odd bit of mackerel trawling, all captured on camera by Nick Ingram of Gybe photos. The evening meal of bangers, mash and beer courtesy of Network Yacht Brokers was just the thing to round off an exhausting but exhilarating day.

**Thursday**

Thursday was perfect Sonata weather with force 3 and a mixture of sunshine and showers. The PRO set three back to back races of Olympics and Windward Leeward to bring the race schedule up to date. The first race of the day was won by Neil McLure in So, ahead of local boat X Scream helmed by Brian Holland, Pied Piper and Tom White in G String. Eric returned to his winning ways by taking the second and third race of the day with good results from Phil Quin in Bach Lash, Fraser Harrison in Zero Proof, and Charlie Russell and his young team on Argo.

This left one race left for Friday which was a scenic race around the St Tudwalds Islands to finish in front of the clubhouse. Tricky wind conditions tested the race management team but the wind and tide proved to be even more perplexing around the race course, particularly to the local boats! So led from the start, pulling out a convincing lead from Eric, and the following pack of Pied Piper, High and Dry and Argo, to finish to the sound of cannon fire. Meanwhile the rest of the fleet changed positions through the wind shadows and tidal variations around the islands.

## The Winners

The championship was convincingly won by Steve Goacher and his well practised team on Eric the Boat, with So in second, Pied Piper third and High and Dry fourth. The final prize-giving evening was a great success thanks to the sponsorship of Haulfryn Homes and the fun was added to by Eric winning a NH Sails boom cover and Murray Caldwell winning a Goacher Genoa! Thanks go to the SCYC race management team led by former Sonata sailor Richard Date, to the staff at SCYC and the catering team "Sonatas Brew" who fed and watered the fleet for the week. Many thanks go to our major sponsors International Paints, for providing support throughout the week; Wombat Clothing who clothed the whole fleet, race management team and bar staff in their products; Haulfryn Homes and Network Yacht Brokers. Thanks also to the many daily sponsors for providing prizes and to Abersoch Spar for water for competitors throughout the week.

More details on the event can be found on the [South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club Site](#).

Photos are available at [www.nickingramphotography.com](http://www.nickingramphotography.com) and [www.fotoboat.com](http://www.fotoboat.com).





# Sonata Sailing

## Events

### Sonata Nationals 2005: results

	Sail No	Boat	Owner	Club	Pts	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Race 9
1	8748	Eric the Boat	Steve Goacher	Royal Windermere	7	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	2
2	8217	SO	Neil McLure	Dalgety Bay SC	18	20	2	6	3	3	1	7	2	1
3	8320	Pied Piper	Murray Cawdwell	Cove SC	22	6	3	2	5	2	3	6	4	3
4	8285	High and Dry	Martin Price		25	2	5	4	2	5	7	9	3	4
5	8076	X-Scream	Brian Holland	SCYC	46	5	11	8	7	20	2	4	9	16
6	8305	Piccolo	John Putt	Parkstone	55	17	4	7	10	6	8	11	15	9
7	8022	Buzz Factor	Steve Bee	DBYC	57	12	7	3	8	4	12	16	12	11
8	8314	Saraband	Mark Taylor	Port Dinorwic SC	58	3	13	12	9	20	10	15	5	6
9	8049	Sequoia	Gareth McAnlis		59	13	8	14	4	9	11	12	8	7
10	8312	Argo	Alec Russell	R Sm YC	59	7	20	10	6	10	14	17	7	5
11	8086	Zero Proof	Fraser Harrison	Dalgety Bay SC	70	8	12	9	14	11	18	3	16	13
12	8063	Flashpoint	Malcolm Friar	Coniston SC	70	10	10	5	12	7	13	13	13	15
13	8260	Bach Lash	Phil Quinn	SLYC	72	18	9	13	13	8	16	2	11	20
14	8425	Brahms and Liszt	Keith Lord	DBYC	77	9	14	16	16	14	6	10	14	10
15	8147	G-String	Tom White	R Sm YC	78	15	6	20	20	20	4	5	20	8
16	8340	Frankie	David Anderton	SCYC	86	14	20	11	11	12	15	19	6	17
17	8116	Sting	Team Sting	SCYC	93	11	15	15	15	13	17	18	10	14
18	8249	A Sharp Exit	Martin Hartley	SCYC	101	4	20	20	20	20	9	8	20	20
19	8234	Sonateigna Too	Andrew Ackroyd		109	16	16	17	17	20	19	14	17	12