

flying fifteen Mallorca

17 February – Liga de Invierno 4 – Pollensa

This fourth race in the RCNPP cruiser series saw a couple of cruisers and five *flying fifteens* turn out in the very blustering conditions. The planned course was to be from a start off Avançada to a windward mark off Llenaire, then a long downwind leg to a buoy near Cabo Pinar, back to Llenaire then Cabo Pinar again and finish.

After the short beat, we all set off on the long downwind leg. The cruisers decided not to compete the race, and motored home before the bottom mark was laid. Nevertheless, the race officer decided to set this mark the full 5 miles downwind, and off we went. Mike and David in *Speedy Gonzales* stayed ahead, and got close first, and broached as the came to the mark. The following boats took this as a sign to drop their spinnakers early, and approach with caution.

Meantime, *Speedy* was surging up the beat in Mike's inimitable fashion. Stephen and Teresa in *Wight Flyer* (renamed from *Fine Fettle*, and with new stickers to prove it!) were doing well until a missed tack caused them to drop the mast in the water, filling the boat up and slowing them down whilst they bore off to get the bailers working and empty the out the water. This allowed John and Jonny in *fuego fatuo* to get past into second. Dragonfly couldn't do the same and stayed in fourth. Fortunately, the race officer realised that nobody had an appetite for another five-mile upwind slog – although the downwind leg would have been great! – and shortened the course.

Hugh and Andrius sailed a heroic race in *Gekko*, completing the course despite the conditions.

1	ESP 3804	<i>Speedy Gonzales</i>	Michael Clough / David Allen
2	GBR 3577	<i>fuego fatuo</i>	John Walker / Jonny Fullerton
3	ESP 3728	<i>Wight Flyer</i>	Stephen Parry / Teresa Parry

25 March & 7 April – David Miles series 1 & 2– Pollensa

We'd planned to sail the first regatta sponsored by David Miles on this last Saturday in March, but the forecast was so bad that we decided to move to the next day. Sunday also was so wet and cold, that we all decided to go back home without having sailed a metre. Hopefully next time!

A couple of weeks later, we set out again to hold the race, again – more successfully this time.

Our fleet is growing, and before the day's racing David Miles' new boat, FF4058, was christened *Stormtrooper ffour*, with champagne and cakes. A

small quantity of champagne was poured over the boat, and the rest was put to better use.

The conditions were fantastic, with 12 to 15 knots of easterly inside Punta Avançada and 15 to 20 knots further out into the bay. The race course started just outside the harbour with of a short beat, then a run back to the pin, followed by a long leg up to Isla Formentor, leaving the island to starboard, then back to the line leaving the first mark to starboard.

Speedy Gonzalez and *Wight Flyer* led off the start from opposite ends of the line and crossed tacks a couple of times until *Wight Flyer* overstood the first mark and gave up the lead.

Rounding the windward mark, the leading boats were closely followed by *Stormtrooper*. The run was short and intense with very little time between hoisting the spinnaker, gybing and then bringing the kite back down.

Although the marks had been laid by Michael in *Dragonfly*, he missed the windward mark and overstood by far; luckily Hugh and Diego in *Gekko* did the same. (They may have trusted the mark layer to know where the mark was.)

On the way up to Isla Formentor the breeze increased as did the size of the waves. When rounding the wind lined up with the gap, giving quite clean air to beat up through the channel, with big waves breaking on both sides.

The return leg was a powerful reach, but straight down the waves. Stephen Parry in *Wight Flyer* remarked “three plus miles in under twenty minutes – that’s shifting” (yep, over 10 knots in a boat with a 15 foot waterline!) This is why we sail Flying Fifteens.

Dragonfly passed *Gekko* on this leg and finished fourth. A great day's sailing was had by all. With special thanks to Michael Beecken who planned and laid the course.

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| 1 | ESP 3804 | <i>Speedy Gonzales</i> | Michael Clough / David Allen |
| 2 | ESP 3728 | <i>Wight Flyer</i> | Stephen Parry / Teresa Parry |
| 3 | ESP 4058 | <i>Stormtrooper ffour</i> | David Miles/ Corine Jacobine |

We have a few boats for sale or trial, come and have a go soon!

Next up

3-6 May	Palma Vela	Palma
19 May	Sponsored series 1	Pollensa
9 June	Trofeo Formentor	Pollensa
23 June	Hugh Wilson Trophy	Pollensa

Our 2018 calendar is on our website <http://flyingfifteen.mallorcaservice.de>
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