

***flying fifteen* Mallorca**

Firstly a correction to last month – the 13 March Liga de Invierno results should read:

GBR 3610	<i>Stormtrooper III</i>	David Miles
ESP 3577	<i>fuego fatuo</i>	John Walker / Stephen Babbage
ESP 3825	<i>Spanish Fly</i>	John Leaf / Mark Hart

(previously shown as *Dragonfly*)

26 March – Liga de Invierno, Pollensa

Eight *flying fifteens* turned out for this race, run without the company of the cruisers sailing. As a result, we set our own start and course – to Isla Formentor and back, each boat to choose which way round.

With a breeze in the easterly quadrant, we all set off out into the bay. *fuego fatuo* took an early lead, and elected to go outside the island, as did much of the fleet. Arriving at the eastern point, the wind dropped, and the fleet concertinaed, with *Gekko* rapidly closing the distance. *Dragonfly*, *Stormtrooper* and *Extrasensory Perception* had chosen the inshore track, and coming through on a beat – with stronger apparent wind - met the leaders halfway.

As the downwind boats came our from behind the island, they saw the others reaching back towards Puerto Pollensa, and well ahead. Final results were unchanged, with the inshore boats taking the first three places.

Afterwards we all adjourned to Cafeteria Imperial for tapas and a few beverages. Great day!

Results:

ESP 3600	<i>Dragonfly</i>	Michael Beecken
GBR 3610	<i>Stormtrooper III</i>	David Miles / Mark Hart
ESP 3432	<i>Extrasensory Perception</i>	Michael Clough / John

9 April – Extra race, Pollensa

As this was a non-scheduled race, we had no rib to support us and lay buoys, so following the success of the last race, we all agreed on another “pick your way” race around Isla Formentor.

Eight boats had turned out, including Carlos and Nacho in *Swampfire*, and the welcome return of Scott and Andy in *Fiel Good*. We'd also decided to find some buoys near the harbour entrance, and have a couple of short practice races. Wind was from an unusual direction – the North West – and 12-15 with 18 knot gusts. We shared a start

with the Sail and Surf catamarans' windward marks, which made for some lively timing. The two short races were taken by *fuego fatuo* and *Dragonfly*, and we then set up for the long race.

Same triangle course first, then back through the finish line and out to Formentor. *fuego fatuo* took the lead after a pin-end port tack start, and led around the short triangle before heading out to Formentor. The wind stayed strong, but somehow, *Stromtrooper* and *Dragonfly* stayed in their own band of wind which never quite reached the leader, although they didn't pass. Rounding the lighthouse, *fuego fatuo* stayed offshore with spinnaker up, planning to go outside of the island again on the basis that this time the wind must favour that course.

The next boats elected on the inshore approach, and dropped their spinnakers, to head for Formentor bay. *fuego fatuo* arrived clear at the island, and rounded the corner to start their beat. They met *Stromtrooper* and *Ffiel Good* coming down the channel under spinnaker at speed. Exiting the channel into the bay, the wind was all over the place, and they lost a few hundred metres before gaining clear air. The first two inshore boats were now out in the strong breeze, reaching up the middle of the bay at speed.

Arriving at the lighthouse, *Stormtrooper* was leading, followed by *Ffiel Good*, with *fuego fatuo* closing the gap. The start line buoys were difficult to spot, but *Stromtrooper* arrived first to win the race. *fuego fatuo* closed on *Ffiel Good*, and coming to the line tacked to take a controlling position. *Ffiel Good* was unable to cross, and had to tack below, allowing *fuego fatuo* to take them beyond the line. All was not over, as when they tacked to finish, a boat was lifting the buoy and motoring away with it! By consensus we agreed the second and third places, and *fuego fatuo* then remained on station to provide an outer end for the remaining finishers – *Extrasensory Perception*, *Spanish Fly*, *Triffid*, *Dragonfly* and *Swampfire*..

We finished the day with drinks and live music on the beach at La Roca – another great day *flying fifteen!*

Results:

GBR 3610	<i>Stormtrooper III</i>	David Miles / Mark Hart
ESP 3577	<i>fuego fatuo</i>	John Walker / Stephen Babbage
GBR 3763	<i>Ffiel Good</i>	Scott Walker / Andrew Harvey

Coming up

We have a full calendar, if you'd like to join us, visit

<http://flyingfifteen.mallorcaservice.de>, we have a club boat available (and some for

sale!), and are always keen to bring new crews into the fleet. Or just turn up at the next event:

4-8 May	Palma Vela	RCNP, Palma
15 May	Liga de Primavera	RCNPP, Pollensa
28 May	Liga de Primavera	RCNPP, Pollensa
12 June	Trofeo Formentor	RCNPP, Pollensa