

***flying fifteen* Mallorca**

18 July – practice

Michael Beecken organised a practice before the Scandy Cup, and 4 boats turned out. First race was taken by *fuego fatuo*, crewed by Pekka Ahtonen. This was his first race in a fifteen, so a great performance, especially as they didn't use the spinnaker! Scott and Andy were next, with *dragonfly* third. *Dragonfly* pulled back to win the second, followed by *fuego fatuo* and *extrasensory perception* – who had missed the first race. *Ffiel good* missed a course change, and didn't finish this race. They recovered to win the final race, with *fuego fatuo* again second and *Dragonfly* third.

Results:

ESP 3577	<i>fuego fatuo</i>	Stephen Babbage / Pekka Ahtonen 5
ESP 3600	<i>dragonfly</i>	Michael Beecken / Stephen Parry 8
GBR 3763	<i>Ffiel Good</i>	Scott Walker / Andrew Harvey 8

19 July – Scandy Cup

Three races were scheduled, all on a “wrong way round” starboard round Olympic style course. As if that wasn't enough, the wind joined in, starting from NW, progressively moving through N to E through the afternoon – more later.

Race one saw a close start into the northerly wind, with *ffiel good* arriving at the mark first, closely followed by *fuego fatuo*. Then off on the first of many exciting reaches – what the flying fifteens are made for! *Ffiel good* held their lead, *fuego fatuo* second, and *Dragonfly* making up the top 3.

The wind had already started veering towards the end of the first race, and the course was changed slightly for the second. There was a clear hole in the middle of the course, and all the fleet elected to go one side or the other. *Fuego fatuo* played the shore side, and were at the mark first when the wind died and the sea breeze came in from the other side. They touched as they rounded the mark, and as they started the reround, *Stormtrooper* came surging past on the new wind. They were followed by the entire fleet leaving *fuego fatuo* in seventh, where they finally finished. On the second beat, *Zippy* took the right side of the course, and with it the lead, which they held to the end. The whole race turned upside down, with *Dragonfly* pulling up to second and *Spanish Fly* third.

This left the series open, with *dragonfly* on 5 points, and 5 boats with 7-9. After an exciting start, *fuego fatuo* tacked close under *dragonfly*, and for safety elected to take a penalty (later *dragonfly* told them they had tacked “close but clear” and the penalty was unnecessary). This forced them to the right of the course, which proved advantageous, closing up on *ffiel good* and where they finished 1-2.

The series highlighted the challenges of Pollensa Bay, with all but one boat having a top 3 finish, and every boat having at least one bottom 3 place. Nevertheless,

Final results:

GBR 3763	<i>Ffiel Good</i>	Scott Walker / Andrew Harvey 8
ESP 3600	<i>dragonfly</i>	Michael Beecken / Stephen Parry 10
ESP 3577	<i>fuego fatuo</i>	Stephen Babbage / Pekka Ahtonen 11

1 August – Michael Clough Trophy

Every year Michael organises this trophy. It's sailed on "unusual" courses, the racing rules are adapted for the event, with limited sail combinations, and scoring might best be described as arbitrary. The aim is to get newcomers into the sport, and there are special points for children.

Race 1 was a simple "up and down", a single lap windward leeward. John Leaf was sailing with regular crew Richard, and easily took the first race. *Extrasensory perception* – sailed by the Clough brothers – just pipped *fuego fatuo* for second place. *Fuego fatuo* was crewed by Charly Babbage, who had never been in anything smaller than a 36 footer before, and was fighting right to the end.

Second race was the same course, but this time with no jibs allowed. Charly weighs less than 50 kilos, and in the increasing winds *fuego fatuo* quickly dropped back upwind. *ESP* was first at the top mark, followed by *Spanish Fly* and then *dragonfly*. Downwind, *fuego fatuo* had less weight, but without the benefit of a jib couldn't catch up with the three leaders, who finished in the same order.

There followed more "interesting" courses, with another mainsail only, and two with only reaching legs. *Kiwi* made the best of their first races of the season, and John Leaf had issues which prevented him finishing race 4.

Final finishers *Kiwi* won the special prize of a bottle of antique wine, with the comment that both last place and old wine are similar, the only way to improve the first is to do something different – which pays off one in ten, much the same as an old, untried wine!

Results:

ESP 3432	<i>Extra Sensory Perception</i>	Gregory Clough / Melvin Clough 8
ESP 3600	<i>Dragonfly</i>	Michael Beecken / Gottfried Müller 15
ESP 3825	<i>Spanish Fly</i>	John Leaf / Richard 17

8-9 August – Trofeo Cormorán

By kind invitation of RCNPP, four flying fifteens joined the cruiser fleet on day one of this two-day coastal series.

All of the fleet elected for the southern side of the bay, and benefited from progressive lifts along the coast. After an hour's beat we arrived at Punta Sabater, and unusually were able to round it on first attempt. *Stormtrooper III* – helmed by Viviana Giuliano – lived up to her name, and stormed off under spinnaker, followed by *fuego fatuo*. Both boats passed a number of smaller cruisers on this leg, and rounded the mark off Illa d'Alcanada.

On their return, they saw *dragonfly*, with Michael Beecken sailing singlehanded and *Kiwi*, with Jose Montero / Rafael Borrás. Finishing places were in that order, with the 19+ miles despatched in 3¾ hours.

The second day saw two more boats join the fleet; Claus & Cecilia Meyer in *Fiscardo*, and Sue & Alan Foreman in *Heaven Sent*, making up for the absence of *fuego fatuo*. Although the course stayed within Pollensa bay, the distance was longer, as the fleet went to Pinar Bay, Formentor island, Bonaire, Pollensa harbour, then back to Pinar bay before finishing near the harbour entrance. Total distance over 25nm. Rumour has it this was so the race committee could take a leisurely swim! *Stormtrooper* pulled out a commanding lead over second placed *Dragonfly*, who was chased closely by *Heaven Sent*, well ahead of the other finishers. After a gruelling race, everyone was exhausted, so much so that we had to use the crane to lift Sue from the boat!

Series results:

ESP 3610	<i>Stormtrooper III</i>	Viviana Giuliano / Viviana Giuliano 2
ESP 3600	<i>dragonfly</i>	Michael Beecken 5
ESP 3577	<i>fuego fatuo</i>	Stephen Babbage / Francisco Gadala-Maria 7

Coming up

We're racing at least twice a month from now until the end of summer, 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:

16-23 August: relax *ff* regatta – Bay of Pinar, anchor up for picnic – and back

29 August: extra race

5 September: Trofeo Australia

12 September: extra race

and don't forget the Campeonato de Mallorca on October 10-12!