

Competitors gather on the eve of the 2009 British Open Team Racing Championship for the Wilson Trophy at West Kirby Sailing Club.

West Kirby Sailing Club and the adjacent Marine Lake were a hive of activity all week, as both organisers and competitors at this weekend's 2009 British Open Team Racing Championship for the Wilson Trophy, put the final touches in place before racing commences on Friday 1st May. For event lynchpin Jamie Marston and the hoards of hardworking West Kirby Sailing Club volunteers, today represents the culmination of months of planning and hard work. "There is a terrific team spirit amongst the volunteers," explains Marston. "Because this is the sixtieth anniversary of the very first event we are pulling out all the stops to make this the best Wilson Trophy ever. We finished working here about two o'clock this morning and then everyone was back here again first thing."

Marston was confident that all the pieces of the jigsaw were now in place and certainly everything seemed to be ready: the fleet of 36 colour coded team race Fireflies all branded with their sponsors logos sit rigged and ready in the dinghy park; marquees have been erected; temporary portacabins craned into place and the public address system is loud and clear. In the results office, the software which when racing starts will automatically update the official event website at www.wilsontrophy.co.uk every few minutes, was undergoing final testing. Up in the media room the systems which will upload video streams of the action to the official event website were also being put through their paces.

Out on the brimming Marine Lake, several teams keen to familiarise themselves with the idiosyncrasies of the lake were engaged in a series of practice dogfights in a somewhat dank six to eight knot breeze. In the foreground a raft of Umpires' ribs sits, tied like horses in a western movie, waiting for their posse of Sheriffs to arrive.

All teams are required to complete registration this evening following which the draw for the first round of matches will be made. The team racers are in for an early start on day one of racing, with a competitors briefing at 08.30 and the first matches scheduled to get underway an hour later. With solid breezes forecast for the local area, hopes are high that a full programme of races will be possible on day one.

Racing at the 2009 British National Team Racing Championship for the Wilson Trophy at West Kirby Sailing Club starts on Friday 1st May and runs through to Sunday 3rd May.

You can follow all the action via the Live Results service on the Official Wilson Trophy Website at www.wilsontrophy.co.uk.

Daily press releases containing a round up of the action will be issued to all major media outlets and will appear on the official event website.

Images from the official event photographer Ollie Khedun as well as streamed video will be posted on the official website as they become available.

West Kirby Sailing Club is grateful for the continued support of the following sponsors:

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West Kirby Sailing Club would also like to acknowledge the important contribution of the following boat patrons:

Ancient Mariners
Mann Island Finance
Nick Flashman
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For more information about the 2009 British Team Racing Championship for the Wilson Trophy or for access to high resolution images from the event please contact the official press officer, Justin Chisholm:

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