

Dexterity, X-332, Triumphs at 44th Annual Gortmore Bell

The 44th annual Gortmore Bell race, hosted by the Iniscealtra Sailing Club, took place on Lough Derg on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Despite the forecast of high south-westerly winds, the historic 30-mile race route from Mountshannon, north up Lough Derg, turning at the Gortmore mark, and returning to finish in Mountshannon Bay, was successfully navigated.

Class 2 boats started 22 minutes ahead of Class 1. In Class 1, 'Dexterity,' an X-332, initially took the lead but was soon overtaken by 'No Show,' a Cork 1720, at the hare mark as spinnakers were launched for the downwind leg to the Gortmore mark. These two boats battled for the overall win, with 'No Show' reaching a maximum speed of 15 knots under spinnaker.

As the boats rounded the Gortmore mark and headed home, the weather became more challenging, with wind speeds exceeding 30 knots. 'Christina' even recorded a wind speed of 43 knots. This upwind leg allowed 'Dexterity' to regain time against the fleet. 'No Show' was the first to finish, but 'Dexterity,' skippered by Kevin Hoare, secured the overall win of the Gortmore Bell 2024.

The high wind speeds made this one of the most challenging and fastest Gortmore Bell races. In Class 1, second place went to 'No Show,' a Cork 1720, and third place to 'Silk,' a First Class 10. In Class 2, 'Cedar,' a Beneteau Oceanis 323, took first place, followed by 'Poco Loco,' a Dufour 30 Classic, in second, and 'Valentian,' a Sun Odyssey 32, in third.



Dexterity Crew

Back Row: Mike Campion, Liam Madden, Ger Hobbs, Ruairi Buckley, Jo Brady.

Front Row: Frank Hoare & Skipper Kevin Hoare.