

Sunday Course Race Series - Sunday 31st May.

Beautiful sunshine and a stiff breeze of about 15 to 18 knots from the north east welcomed the starters for the first race of the second Sunday Course Race Series.

The race venue was Grandes Rocques, which hadn't been raced by any of the members for many years.

A course was set from a beach start running and reaching out to the inside passage at Grosse Rock and then a short beat into Cobo bay using one of the white marker buoys before a reach back out to Grosse Rock and a beat back into the bay.

The tide was running hard to the north west in the channel by Grosse against the wind leading to very disturbed waters next to partially covered or submerged rocks. In the conditions there were just six starters. Jo tried out her refurbished 7.8 m sail for the first time. Every one else sported the 8.5 m rigs apart from Tim with his 9.5 m.

The first race saw Tim taking a substantial lead on the run followed by Simon, Nigel, Jo and Seb. Mat retired at Grosse Rock and returned into Grandes Rocques. Seb at only 50kg did fantastically well to complete the race with the full rig. Unfortunately he broke his fin and retired from the second race after the start.

The second race was more closely fought. Simon took an early lead but went wide at Grosse Rock allowing Tim to take the lead. At the Cobo mark Nigel took Simon at the mark holding second place until he railed up and fell in the passage at Grosse Rock.

The finishing positions were as per the first race, with Tim being first in by about 40 yards and Simon only a few feet in front of Nigel who had thundered up the beat in the strong winds narrowly missing second spot. Jo wasn't as fast with the smaller sail but was delighted with how easy it had been to use in the prevailing conditions. It was clear that at this wind strength Tim had not had much advantage from his big sail which he had found quite a struggle to hold up.