

Samui Regatta delivers thrilling racing

HiFi pip Oil and Jelik to claim victory in IRC Zero class while Foxy Lady VI and El Coyote also triumph on final day

SAMUI: The final day of the 13th Samui Regatta yesterday delivered exciting racing and winning margins of mere seconds decided the outcome.

Good breeze to the north of Chaweng beach saw the fleet get off on time and tight racing was a fitting finale to what may be one of the closest racing in Asia.

Coming into the final day, just one point separated the top three in the IRC Zero and there was everything to play for. The 8-10 knot breeze was in favour of Neil Pryde's HiFi and he was the first to take advantage.

Third over the finish line in yesterday's first race, HiFi scored a win on corrected time by just 15 seconds over Peter Abern's Oil in second and Frank Pong's Jelik in third. HiFi went on to win the title by two points.

Having sewn up the IRC One title a day early, Foxy Lady VI were out there for pride and also in search of one more win to secure their first ever Asian Yachting Grand Prix championship.

With the course design favouring asymmetrical boats, Foxy Lady VI would need to be on top form.

As the handicaps were calculated,

just 24 seconds separated the top three and it was Red Kite II who placed third behind Jessandra II who missed out on first by just two seconds to the all-conquering Bill Bremner and his Foxy Lady VI crew.

The win, by just two seconds, was enough for Bill Bremner and Foxy Lady VI to be crowned 2013/14 Asian Yachting Grand Prix skipper and yacht of the year.

Another win for Gary Baguley's El Coyote was enough to secure the IRC Two title with one race to spare. But just 15 seconds back were the smallest boat in the fleet, Mick Grover's Moon Shadow who were second ahead of the all-Thai crew on Sansiri.

The closeness of the racing throughout the week just seconds at times was almost unheard of in handicap racing.

RESULTS

IRC Zero: HiFi, Neil Pryde (16); Jelik, Frank Pong (18); Oil, Abern/Bailey/Winter (18)

IRC One: Foxy Lady VI, Bill Bremner (8); Elektra, Marcel Liedts (22); Jessandra II, Roland Dane (26)

IRC Two: El Coyote, Gary Baguley (8); Sansiri, Patsinyakorn Buravorn (13); Moon Shadow, Mick Grover (18)



El Coyote on the way to winning the IRC Two title at the Samui Regatta 2014.