

## **Greenock Marblehead Open, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Report and photos by John Taylor

On the eve of the Marblehead World Championships in Germany, a few hundred miles across Europe, the stage was set for the Greenock Club to host this year's Marblehead Open regatta. In recent years a decline in numbers has almost seen the Marblehead Class become extinct in Scotland. However, a handful of skippers last year made the effort to resurrect the class. Increased momentum this year saw a larger entry of 6 skippers from across the west of Scotland to the borders of England compete against each other.

It could be argued that this event represented grass roots sailing but it was all about re-kindling the Marblehead class within Scotland. Yes, some of these boats were largely out dated in most areas but every yacht which was sailing had their moment of chance. It is hoped that next year even more skippers may consider 'pimping' their yachts. This means for minimal expense to make some improvements to increase performance. We shall see.

The event began with a light easterly breeze, but as the day continued the wind increased and skippers were forced to change to their B-rigs. 15 races were completed during the day with the results as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Taylor – Astrix - 17pts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Damian Ackroyd – Astrix – 22pts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Rooney – Whisper – 29pts
- 4<sup>th</sup> Gordon Rae – Jive – 38pts
- 5<sup>th</sup> John Matheson – Wafer – 44pts
- 6<sup>th</sup> Gordon Neil – Wagner – 79pts