

First Ever Scots Win In

MORAY yachtsman Robin Miller sailed back to his home port of Findhorn on the crest of a wave after becoming the first overall Scottish winner of the 11-year-old Mobil North Sea Yacht Race.

It was a proud result for the Royal Findhorn Yacht Club treasurer and a well-deserved one for Robin and his 20-year-old green-hulled Westerly Longbow ketch, *Shallon of Rhu*.

This year's race, which started from Banff on 8 July and took a fleet of 35 Scots and Norwegian yachts on a 320-mile passage race to Stavanger across the notoriously hostile North Sea, proved to be a milestone for Scottish sailing.

No fewer than three Scots boats filled the top class spots and many others completed the course in good positions. It was the first year Scottish boats have chalked up so many prime places.

Weather conditions for the race, unlike last year's stormy crossing, were excellent with the fleet on a fast reach or run on their

Dave Morgan rounds up this month's Moray Firth news

way to the Norwegian finish line.

The Findhorn skipper, who took both the overall award and the Class 4 title, is one of the event's organisers along with office bearers from his own club and Banff Sailing Club. He has taken part in every North Sea event since it started in 1984 when 18 boats set off from Banff for Norway.

His crew of RFYC member

Glyn Whitehead, Aberdeen-based Mobil Oil staffer David Worrall and Shell employee Gavin Sears, were delighted with their victory.

The Class 2 award went to Lossiemouth SC skipper **Jens Jakobsen** in *Lady in Red* while the Class 5 title went to Nairn Sailing Club skipper **Hugh Fraser** with *Ceilidh of Fife*.

The Oil Challenge Trophy, donated by sponsors Mobil (North Sea), drew a large entry from boats crewed by oil industry personnel. And there was a special toast for the class winner, Norwegian Solfest Utbjoe, whose 1993 North Sea Race ended in near

tragedy when his yacht *Sea Girl* was abandoned in a sinking condition after being holed by an unidentified piece of floating debris.

Skipper Utbjoe managed to rebuild *Sea Girl* after she was salvaged by a North Sea support vessel and was back in Banff for this year's start.

In second place in the Oil Challenge Trophy was Firth of Forth based **John Fraser** who skippered the Port Edgar yacht *Andromeda* of Arisaig. Third was Norwegian North Sea Race veteran Odd Svendsen with *Nesse*.

Results:

Overall -1 Shallon of Rhu,

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