

Runners and Riders at the 2022 Noble Marine RS800 National Championship

Well sports fans here we go again. The RS800s are back at Weybiza for the third year in a row. 2020 WPNSA heroically rescued our nationals at short Covid notice. 2021 Castle Cove SC hosted us wonderfully. Then this year we're part of the RS Games.

For many reasons we are missing some regulars – they will be missed. Fingers crossed the dreaded lurgy doesn't deplete the fleet on the day. There are a few boats that could take a race win – starting with:

Tom Morris and Guy Fillmore – current national and European champs, proven fast and reliable. Will Guy be helming the last day again? I think they might be pushed a bit more than at Carnac by...

Rob Gullan and Tom Partington – did our delayed gybe cost them a race win last year? We'll never know but they are back for another crack at the title. They will be fast and I'm sure will take some race wins especially if it is windy.

Luke and Emma McEwen – would not bet against these two taking some races if it is 0-10 knots. Legendary speed is a given, now available with crew sheeting.

Ben Palmer and Dicken Maclean – These two should be fast if recent form is anything to go by. So long as they restrict their retirements when leading the race to a minimum.

James Penty and Eddie Grayson – easy to spot by the shorts and flip flops when its 18 degrees and drizzling – it's warm down South apparently. Consistently fast last year, can they get on the podium?

Joe Bradley and Louis Johnson – It's the third crew in three years for Joe, can Louis help regain his great form from 2020?

Gilles Peeters and Chloe le Roux – It's great to have some teams from France competing this year! Gilles appears to have an endless supply of crew but I am sure that these two will be sailing well as a team from the off. Can be spotted in light winds by the vertical trapeze technique. UK boats take note, Gilles isn't afraid of filling out a protest form!

There is plenty of other talent in the fleet who can show everyone a clean pair of heels – or at least hold them off for a while... I look forward to seeing it all unfold (almost certainly in front of me) in the coming week!

By Dan Goodman