

MBSC Sailing Report - week ended 14th June 2009

Tuesday 9th June 2009

There was no racing on Tuesday due to a total absence of wind!

Friday 12th June 2009

Basking sharks joined seven Lasers, two Ospreys, four Mirrors and five Handicap boats as they sailed a windward-leeward course from a boat start set by race officer Pippa Baker for the third race of the Club Champion series in a shifty force two south-westerly breeze that gradually moved south.

Lasers: Clive Goodhead (Radial) threatened mayhem to an orderly Laser start when he arrived early at the line, but managed to extricate himself without suffering too many insults and return to start correctly. Greg Harris, Nick Stoten, John Currie (Radial) and Beth White (Radial) went left initially while Roger Sparrow and Malcolm Woolcock went right. Nick also headed right after a few minutes but was crossed by Roger and Malcolm as they closed on the windward mark. All three were eclipsed by Greg who had stayed left and was first onto the dead run with a twenty yard lead. John Currie had also stayed left, but his Radial was no match for the big rigs in the light conditions.

Malcolm's superior downwind technique on the rolling swell took him past Roger on the dead run, and both were closing on Greg who seemed to be choosing an unconventional route to the leeward mark. Unconventional it was when he left the mark to starboard instead of port and was forced to unwind and pass correctly, dropping him to the back of the fleet from where he retired in disgust! Malcolm went left up the second beat, Roger started to work the shifts up the middle and Nick went right – to take the lead ahead of Roger with Malcolm back in third. Nick further extended his lead in the third round, but Roger closed on the fourth beat and got to within a boat length on the dead run – not enough to prevent Nick taking his first well-deserved win of the season to much acclaim. Malcolm finished third ahead of John, Beth and Clive.

Slow Handicap: Noemie's farewell race was a cracker. Rob & Lily led from the line but Simon covered and prevented them from pressing home that advantage. By the first mark Simon & Amy had clear water ahead of the rest. Despite stopping so Amy could have a RIB ride they could not be caught. The struggle for second saw Tony & Noemie oscillating with Rob & Lily throughout until a fortuitous wind shift allowed enough clear air on the final leg for Lily to fill the spinnaker and stay just ahead to the line.

Sunday 14th June 2009

On a glorious summer morning, nine Lasers, two Ospreys, four Mirrors and five of the Handicap fleet sailed a starboard hand old Olympic course set by Race Officer Tony Oliver from a boat start in a gentle force two-three south-easterly breeze.

Lasers: After an orderly start, most of the Lasers went right while Roger Sparrow went hard left and tacked on the lay-line for the windward mark. Had he not lost a few boat lengths clearing weed from his rudder, he might well have arrived first at the windward mark, but the honours went to Nick Harvey who rounded clear ahead, followed by Greg Harris and Nick Stoten - whose calls of 'starboard' were clearly heard in Mousehole and persuaded Roger to tack off – the iniquities of a starboard hand course!

Roger passed Nick Stoten on the first reach, and Greg passed Nick Harvey on the second beat. Roger was close behind but attempted to gybe for the run when no gybe was needed, fell in and disappeared to the back of the fleet. The pursuers were involved in some close battles and many place changes. John Currie sailed his usual great race and put all the big rigs other than Greg to shame by fighting through and following Greg home in second. The two Nicks both lost their way and ended up fifth and sixth, while Bruce made the mistake of trying to take room to which he was not entitled from Malcolm at a mark and slipped to eighth ahead of Clive Goodhead after taking his penalty. Malcolm Woolcock did well to get up from the back of the fleet to third behind John, but was himself being closely challenged at the end by Gordon Jonas who finished fourth.

Slow Handicap: Simon & Georgia were clear from the off and were just able to keep close enough to the very rapid Ben to pip him on handicap. The race for third was again Rob & Tony in close quarter combat. The real drama coming literally on the finish line as Tony's tangled tiller allowed Abbie (with Rob) just to sneak past sister Lily. Ben mistakenly sailed a triangular course instead of an old Olympic, but as the rest of the Handicap fleet followed him blindly, it made no difference to the result.

For the full results see <http://www.mbsc.org.uk/sailing/results.shtml>