

MBSC Sailing Report - week ended 13th June 2010

Tuesday 8th June 2010

Five Lasers, five Mirrors and five from the Fast Handicap Class sailed a starboard-hand triangular course set by race officer Paul Broomfield in a force 2-3 northerly breeze.

All five lasers were on the line with Greg Harris, Bruce Adams and Nick Stoten fighting for the best slot at the pierhead end. Roger crossed them all on starboard but a poorly executed tack left him third at the windward mark behind Greg and Bruce. Greg established a good lead which he held to the finish. Roger got through to second on the next beat, leaving an ever quicker Bruce battling with Nick and John Harvey to finish in that order.

It was business as usual for the Mirror fleet after the fun and games of the previous Sunday. Rob got it just right off of the line and found a line that allowed him to pull clear of Simon while those not quite so sharp to the line had an unexpected stoppage courtesy of a passing gig. Rob, unexpectedly getting his settings right, picked a good line up the beat and comfortably rounded the mark three boat lengths ahead. Coming down the first reach Rob's good work came undone as his spinnaker pole first jammed and then lost the line; spinnaker-less single-handed Simon slipped serenely by as Rob struggled to rectify his snags. Further back Tony with Jessica, Mark with Stan and Renny had got themselves going and were coming fast behind in a tight knit clump. Simon rounded the mark a hair's breadth ahead and seemed set to slip to second. Rob's luck struck again as a cleat failed and in the time it took to get it under control and the control line in his teeth, Simon grabbed half a dozen boat lengths which Rob was unable to make up over the remainder of the race and lost further distance on each of the third legs; fortunately for him he had enough of a gap over the rest to comfortably hold off Tony and Jessica. In the rest of the race, some judicious work and a high level of downwind skill got Tony and Jessica clear into third, while Mark and Stan fully utilised the advantages of being double-handed and a spinnaker to hold off Renny and secure fourth.

Friday 11th June 2010

Five lasers set themselves up for a reaching start in a northerly Force 4. John Currie was hot off the line and lead the pack of Dave Johnson, Greg Harris and Bruce Adams to the leeward mark. Nick Stoten started at the wrong end of the line and limped to the mark somewhat behind. John Currie extended his lead throughout the race and went on to take the honours. Meanwhile Nick had worked his way up to third for the final lap and another epic battle with Dave ensued. With Nick on Dave's transom rounding the windward mark the two helms locked into an aggressive luffing match that saw them fast approaching a head on with Hogus Rocks. A determined Dave held onto second place but shaved a few mill off his centreboard in the process.

In the Mirrors, three put to sea but one chose to flee. This left it as a straightforward case of the weather against Simon with Amy and Rob with Lily. Having chosen opposite ends of the start line and different tracks to each mark the two boats found that it made not a blind bit

of difference and Simon and Amy were just a few feet ahead throughout; this continued until there was just over a lap remaining when a tack at too early a point on the beat cost Rob and Lily half a dozen boat lengths and an extra two tacks which was all the other pair needed to get a clear ten lengths ahead. Sailing flawlessly in the calming conditions it was a lead that they never looked in danger of surrendering and so it proved to be.

Sunday 13th June 2010

Six Lasers, five Mirrors, one Osprey and four from the Fast Handicap Fleet sailed a port-hand old Olympic course set by race officer Mike Greig in a variable and shifty force 3 breeze that gradually moved from west-north-west to west as the race progressed.

Lasers sailor Dave Johnson shut John Currie out at the start but to no avail as John and Roger Sparrow went left and rounded the windward mark in first and second close ahead of Greg Harris. John, sailing his standard rig, pulled rapidly away from the fleet only to sail a triangle instead of a dead run in the second round and dropped to sixth. He then showed his class by pulling back to second behind Greg. Dave, Bruce Adams and Nick Stoten were in close competition throughout the race until Nick had to take a penalty, leaving Dave and Bruce to finish *apparently??* in a dead head for third. Roger consistently picked the wrong side of the beat after the first round and finished a dismal last.

In the Mirror fleet, Jessica, having to put up with Rob as her crew, kindly let Simon and Amy get away with it on the start line instead of slamming the door shut the others would have. Simon immediately took advantage of this and for the rest of the fleet it was game over. Up until the last two legs Tony and Harriet were a step behind and realistically in with a chance until a spinnaker failure sealed their fate and they had to settle for second. With the only other skirmish of the race being a brief moment where Jessica and Rob got in front of Wendy for a few yards it was a steady procession with everyone finishing in the order they had been a minute after the start gun went off.

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