

MBSC Sailing Report - week ended 27th June 2010

Tuesday 22th June 2010

Six Lasers, six Mirrors and three from the Fast Handicap Class sailed a port-hand triangular course set by race officer Mikey Greig in a force 2 south westerly breeze.

In the Laser fleet Roger Sparrow got the best of the reaching start, quickly opened up clear water and then sailed into a rare gust that missed everyone else and gave him a good lead that he held to the finish. Jeremy Williams managed to keep John Currie in third place for three rounds but John, in spite of a 360 penalty after hitting the gybe mark, eventually got through and was close behind Roger as the wind died at the end of the final leg. Nick Stoten finished fourth well ahead of Bruce Adams and Graham Cousins.

In the Mirror fleet light and variable winds made for a particularly close, dramatic finish to decide third. An injury to Amy George left Simon Chapman single-handed and although this handicapped his spinnaker flying, he had more than enough skill to build a clear lead on the other legs to secure another routine victory. Mark and Stan Prichard continue to be the next serious contenders to Simon's crown as they improve on a weekly basis; this race was yet another step in that direction as they showed a real grasp of the wind variation in getting clear of the rest and sticking within a dozen boat lengths of Simon, smoothly tacking and reaching all the way. Tony Clee with Jessica Bodé and Rob with Lisa had the only real battle of the race. Rob and Lisa appeared to have got the upper hand and were holding Tony and Jessica high enough to prevent them getting past as they got closer and closer to the harbour wall. At that point Rob cracked and gave Tony enough space to avoid destruction on the rocks, with the wind virtually non-existent so close to the wall Tony showed the benefit of his experience to just squeeze ahead with less than five yards left. As it turned out both were extremely lucky to get the positions they did. Wendy Nancholas, having been far enough behind at the turn to escape their notice, stayed well out, sailed in a straight line towards the finish at a rate of knots which the spinnaker tangled luffers had not bargained on and very nearly pipped them at the post; just missing out by a matter of seconds.

Friday 25th June 2010

Eight Lasers, two Ospreys (both of which missed their start), seven Mirrors and four from the Fast Handicap Fleet sailed a port-hand triangular course set by race officer Marcus Wilkinson that started in a variable force 2 south easterly breeze but which died to nothing by the end of the shortened race.

Jeremy Williams got the best of the Laser start and was first round the leeward mark ahead of Roger Sparrow, who had collided with the Hogus Rocks as he went the inshore route, and Dave Johnson who had gone out to sea. These positions were held until the end of the first round when a pursuing Paul Broomfield caught up with Dave and then went right on the beat while Jeremy, Roger and Dave went left, and ended up second at the windward mark. The faint breeze was dying, and both Paul and Roger caught up with Jeremy as he crept painfully towards the line. Paul just got his nose in front on the line and Jeremy had to make

do with second ahead of Roger and a fast closing Dave. Clive Goodhead produced his most satisfying result of the season when he overtook John Currie and Nick Stoten on the final beat and held on down the run to finish fifth. John retired and Nick came in sixth ahead of Ben Wilkinson.

In the Mirror fleet, huge credit must go to the race team for providing a race of any description on such glassy water. The start was hilarious and the Race Officer very generous in allowing all the boats to count as being inside the allowed time. The fleet soon formed two clusters. Somehow, through the fluke of a gust of wind at the exact moment they got their spinnaker up, Rob and Lily found themselves at the head of the fleet half way down the leg closely followed in hot pursuit by Jane Goodhead with crew Isobel and Simon with Amy. Superior sailing on the part of the pursuers saw them arrive in joint first at the mark and seemingly set the scene for a two-boat battle, but they were both caught out by a wind shift. Rob and Lily, in an outrageous piece of good fortune, found themselves in the one decent funnel of breeze that occurred all evening with the result that by the next mark they were some three quarters of a length ahead; even Rob was unable to squander such a lead and held on to win. Back in the race Jane and Isobel recovered first and smoothly glided around the course to take an untroubled second. Arriving at the turn in sixth, Nick and Abbie saw the line that Rob had taken, went wide at the mark and found the breeze, catching it so well that they were half a dozen boat lengths ahead of the rest in third at the turn. Never a pair to surrender, Simon and Amy eventually got themselves going and quickly got themselves back into fourth. Coming down the final leg it appeared that Nick and Abbie (in a Mk1) were going to be able to hold out but, as the breeze died off Simon and Amy took the advantage that their Mk2 gave them and just managed to get ahead for their worst result of the season.

UK Mirror Class Association Western Area Championships – Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June 2010

On local sailor Tony Clee's 84th birthday, Mount's Bay Sailing Club had the great pleasure of hosting the Mirror dinghy Western Area Championship over the weekend; an event sufficiently prestigious that people travelled from as far afield as Yorkshire and Kent to compete. Unfortunately neither of the clubs in the bay provided the champions but, it is a pleasure to report that all bar one race was won by Cornish sailors and the overall champions were only from Restronguet.

The class has seen significant changes in the design and materials of the boats over recent years as they have deviated from the original Daily Mirror idea to become everything you would hope for in a modern design: It was therefore a great result for the tradition of the Mirror as the winners triumphed in the previous design of wooden boat.

The lightest of winds and the serenade of Mazy Day music wafted across the bay as the first race began and *Va Va Voom* lived up to its name as Tom Cosier and Scarlet Shepherd smoothly and expertly piloted their way up what little wind there was to be four boat lengths clear ahead by the first mark; at that level of sailing the equivalent of the first corner in Formula One. From that point on it was them all the way and, as the wind died out so

completely that the tail enders became marooned, nobody could even get close giving them a fine opening victory.

A long delay ensued while the competitors enjoyed themselves, the music and sunshine and Race Officer Peter Greig waited for enough breeze to be able to set another race in motion. Eventually he was rewarded for his patience and persistence and a little wind returned. Within the first length of the first leg it soon became apparent that the delay hadn't done Tom and Scarlet any harm as they picked up where they had left off and led the fleet once more, this time with Matthew and Benjamin Lulham-Robinson hot on their heels and giving them a run for their money. Valiantly they held them off and eventually fed them just enough dirty air to get away for a second victory.

Race three gave something resembling a bay victory. Former Mount's Bay sailor James Wilkinson, with new crew Esme Shepherd, remembered enough of the way the bay works to realise that a wind bend from Newlyn was building and sailed off in a different direction to the rest of the leading boats. The course they had set seemed to take them impossibly wide compared to normal racing lines, but worked a treat as they were going so much faster than everyone else that they had such a big lead at the turn that from then on the result was almost a foregone conclusion.

Day two began with unexpectedly black clouds overhead and a shifting wind which delayed the start by nearly an hour and caused a change of course during the first race. Matthew and Benjamin having come so close the previous day, and being determined Yorkshire men, took advantage of the more familiar grim conditions and had the sense to look out for local knowledge, followed Simon Chapman and Amy George up the first beat before taking them just ahead of the mark and sailing away. James and Esme had a similarly good beat but, by the time they overcame Simon and Amy to get into second the game was up as far as winning went and they had to settle for second.

The second race was marked by incredible competition and a lot of tempers being lost at the start line as the fleet had two false starts and several boats were placed under the threat of disqualification if they offended again. The third time lucky start was a success and the sky brightened, this brightening reduced the wind and light wind experts Tom and Scarlet duly took their chance. Once again it was Simon and Amy who played pathfinder for the fleet up the beat before being swamped by the leaders ahead of the turn. The reaches were closely fought out between half a dozen boats but up the next beat Tom and Scarlet held firm and by the start of lap three had only two others on their tail. At this point the wind lightened a little more and they fully employed their weight advantage, sailing away from the others and clinching their third victory of the regatta.

The final race was another one for the older boats and once again it was a Cornish winner. Having lost out to Tom's weight in the previous race and engaging in a close battle with James and Esme up the first beat, local stalwart Martin Egan with crew Ruth Smith managed to remain in the leading group for most of the race before employing superb lines on the final lap to get ahead of Peter and Tom Smith, both in a ten year old wooden boats, and secure a well deserved win.

Overall Result:

1. Tom Cosier and Scarlet Shepherd (Restronguet SC)
2. Matthew and Benjamin Lulham-Robinson (Yeadon, Otley and Yorkshire Dales SC)
3. Peter Sedgewick and Nick Pugh (Ripon SC)
4. James Wilkinson and Esme Shepherd (Restronguet SC)
5. Martin Egan and Ruth Smith (Restronguet SC)

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