

MBSC Sailing Report - week ended 11th July 2010

Tuesday 6th July 2010

Eight Lasers, six Mirrors and six boats from the Fast Handicap Fleet plus a lone Osprey sailed a port-hand trapezoid course called for by our adventurous race officer Peter Greig in a force 4 south-south-westerly breeze and expertly set using GPS by Clive Goodhead and Ron Read in the Tornado and Malcolm Woolcock and Mikey Greig in the Mount Boat.

With John Currie in the line-up, the Lasers knew that anything short of a perfect start would significantly reduce the chance of winning. Thus most of the eight Lasers were over the line at the start and suffered the first general recall of the season. Better behaved for the restart, Jeremy Williams at the starboard end and Nick Stoten in the middle got away first up the reach with John Currie in hot pursuit. Jeremy was first round the leeward mark ahead of Nick and John, followed by Dave Johnson, Graham Cousins and Paul Broomfield, with Roger Sparrow and Chris Harvey bringing up the rear.

John was up to second by the end of the first beat and his superior downwind speed soon closed the gap on Jeremy. Jeremy defended hard but John took the lead which he held to the finish. Dave got through Nick and sailed the rest of the race in splendid isolation to finish third, while Nick succumbed first to Graham and then to Paul to finish sixth ahead of Chris Harvey. Roger caught his eye with the end of his tiller at the beginning of the second round, split a contact lens and retired at the end of the third round when he finally ran out of vision.

In the Mirror fleet, the most exciting thing about the race was the anticipation of having the too rarely used Course 3 to sail. Crossing the line Simon Chapman and Amy George headed Tony Clee and Jessica Bodé headed Mark and Stan Prichard. It was a simple case of procession, with the order being the same through the start line as it was for the rest of the race; only the gaps extended and they even ended up almost perfectly equal from boat to boat.

Friday 9th July 2010

Seven Lasers, four Ospreys, six Mirrors and six from the Fast Handicap Fleet sailed a port-hand triangular course set by race officer Paula Morcumb in a force 2 to 3 shifty southerly breeze from a pierhead start.

All seven Lasers were on the line for the reaching start but Greg Harris pulled away to round the leeward mark first, followed closely by Paul Broomfield, John Currie and Roger Sparrow. Greg and Paul headed out to sea on port tack, as did Nick Stoten and Chris Harvey, while John went up the middle and Roger went hard left. John stayed in touch with Greg and Paul but Roger lost out heavily and ended up sixth at the windward mark.

John was challenging Paul by the time they reached the gybe mark but hit the mark and took a penalty, allowing Greg and Paul to pull away and hold their positions to the finish while Roger, who had re-overtaken Nick and Chris on the near dead run, closed the gap. Nick got back through Roger on the next beat, but Roger overtook both Nick and John on the

following reach and stayed ahead on the last round to finish third, followed in by John, Nick, Chris and Clive Goodhead who was underpowered in his radial, having expected more wind.

In the Mirror fleet, after a tight start, Simon and Amy sailed clear ahead and then faultlessly kept away to record a fairly routine win. The competition for second was considerably hotter than the weather as Tony Clee with Harriet Hopkins spent the race in close exchanges with Mark and Stan. Tony was able to hold Mark off until the final straight when he even appeared to be running them aground on the rocks of the Mount. At this point, Mark and Stan executed a perfect gybe, got back into the best breeze and sailed away from Tony and Harriet at what seemed an almost indecent rate of knots to secure second.

Sunday 11th July 2010

Ten Lasers, three Ospreys, four Mirrors and six boats from the Fast Handicap Fleet sailed a port-hand triangular course set by race officer Tony Oliver in a force 2 north-westerly breeze that died before the end of the first beat and then filled in to a shifty force 2 mostly south-westerly at the end of the first round.

In a week of firsts – first square course this season – first Laser Pierhead general recall in recent years – the Lasers saw two more firsts – first race this season with numbers in double figures and first Laser racing with a crew of two juniors! The regulars were delighted to see the Misses Eleanor Goodhead and Eden Backhouse sailing one of the Club Lasers very competently – and were also grateful for the additional breeze created by the volume of chat generated from that direction as the wind dropped!

Paul Broomfield and Roger Sparrow started the race towards the Pierhead end of the line and headed out to sea on starboard tack, leaving the hotly contested pin end to the other eight Lasers, most of whom tacked onto port towards Hogus. As the wind died, Paul chickened out and headed back towards the rest of the fleet in the middle of course while Roger was still heading for France and apparent oblivion. John Currie used his excellent boat handling skills to tack on the shifts and arrived at the windward mark first, followed by Greg Harris, Dave Johnson and, to everyone's surprise, Roger, bearing fresh croissants from Roskoff. With the wind dropped to near drifting conditions, the fleet enjoyed some light relief as fifth place Paul Broomfield attempted to lean his boat to windward, lost his balance and gently rolled the boat upside-down, allowing Clive Goodhead and Nick Stoten to gain a place. Thereafter, the race evolved into a series of separate battles. The additional power of Greg's standard rig and the absence of any beats as the wind shifted allowed him to wear down and finally pass John in his radial. Behind them, Roger constantly chipped away at Dave and finally passed him at the end of the third round and held on to finish third as Dave closed the gap to a boat length at the finish. Nick and Paul changed places several times before finishing fifth and sixth. Clive finished seventh ahead of Bruce Adams, Ben Wilkinson in his radial and the Laser Two.

In the Mirror fleet, following a month of club training, the first Mates race of the season saw the young trainees showing what they have learnt and, for the first time in two years, the return of Super Sidewinder, now in the capable hands of Abbie and Nick Medlicott. A wind shift and drop just before the start caused Rob to send Jessica the wrong way and leave her

some way behind the rest by the time they passed Hokus. Amy and Simon initially had the best of the start but Lily and Tony took a line further out to sea and found some extra speed in clear air and build a small lead. Approaching the mark another wind shift gave Amy a lifeline allowing her to go straight for the turn. She duly accepted the gift and found just enough place to round the mark ahead. From then on she stayed far enough in front to make the best start in the defence of her title. Despite the difficulty of having Rob as crew and a real passion for sailing in the lee of bigger boats, Jessica recovered well enough to nip inside Abbie at the end of the first lap and close the gap on the leaders to a few seconds.

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