

MBSC Sailing Report - week ended 18th July 2010

Tuesday 13th July 2010

Eight Lasers, three Mirrors and four boats from the Fast Handicap Fleet plus a lone Osprey sailed another port-hand trapezoid course called for by race officer Peter Greig over a lumpy and weed strewn sea in a force 3-increasing-to-6 south-south-westerly breeze. The course was expertly set using GPS by Clive Goodhead and Ron Read in the Tornado and Malcolm Woolcock and Mikey Greig in the Mount Boat.

Most of the eight Lasers chose the Pierhead end of the line for the first reach out to the leeward mark and that proved the fastest option as John Currie, Dave Johnson and Paul Broomfield arrived first ahead of Roger Sparrow who had started at the pin end. Thereafter the race developed into a duel between John and Dave at the front and some close racing between the following pack of Paul, Graham Cousins, Nick Stoten, Roger, John Harvey and Ben Wilkinson.

Dave got on level terms with John once or twice, but John's superior boat handling skills downwind in the freshening breeze kept him ahead to finish first ahead of Dave. There were numerous incidents at the windward mark with Graham taking two 720 penalties, in spite of which he sailed well to recover and finish third. Roger took serious avoiding action to avoid a starboard tack Mirror at the windward mark and then clipped topmasts trying to sail behind Paul Broomfield. The resultant 720 penalty and a subsequent capsize propelled him to the back of the fleet. Graham, Paul, Nick and John Harvey changed places numerous times with Paul finally surfing past Nick to finish fourth as the wind hit force 6 on the final round. John Harvey and Ben both decided that discretion was the better part of valour when they saw the squall heading their way and retired at the end of the fifth round.

Friday 16th July 2010

Racing was cancelled as St Michael's Mount harbour was "black flagged". This didn't stop four Lasers, a couple of Ospreys and a few other boats from going out to test their sailing abilities in the challenging conditions.

Sunday 18th July 2010

On Sunday, with the wind still blowing a Force 4 from the southwest, Race Officer Peter Jellis set an ever-welcome Olympic Course.

In the Lasers fleet a rare beat start saw Nick Stoten first off the line. Ben Wilkinson threw in a last second gybe round to avoid being luffed out the pin end and was close on Nick's transom with Greg Harris just behind. By the windward mark Nick had opened up a good lead but Greg's superior off wind speed saw him close the gap significantly.

The second lap saw Ben take the lead when the battling Nick and Greg wrongly sailed the full triangle. However as the wind eased the two standard rigs caught up with Ben in his smaller

Radial; Greg got past Nick and no amount of scraping against the Mount wall to pick up more wind bend could stop Greg from taking the honours.

In the Mirror fleet Simon Chapman found his usual first position with new crew Lisa Prichard followed by Mark and Stan Prichard. Jessica Bodé, undeterred by the strong breeze, helmed well to come in third.

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