

## Dartmouth Sailing Week Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta @ Dittisham SC

### Final Day Roundup

#### WHAT A REGATTA!!

Well, that was a quite amazing four days...69 entries overall, with an average of about 60 boats on the water every day. We'd thought we might just top 50, but with a delightful influx of visitors, and increasing DSC racing participation, we scaled as yet unimagined heights. We must be doing something right.

All this could not have happened without a legion of volunteers from the club, generous as ever with their time and skills, on the water and/or onshore. You have all been thanked personally and en masse, and are too numerous to name here, but just in case, a huge **THANK YOU** from everyone who helped us put on such a marvellous, friendly and fun event.

But I would like to single out two people for especial mention, Jackie Humphries and Nicky Sheppard, for organising everything this year, their first involvement in the regatta, and for making it go so wonderfully well. Awesome.

One telling comment from one of our visitors was that they were amazed that the organisers of such a large-scale event (Jackie, Nicky and me) could organise such an event, yet still be able to go out sailing in it, and that it must be a testament to the amazing involvement and volunteering ethos of our members that such a situation could exist. An extremely perspicacious remark, and a rousing hear, hear! from the three of us. Thanks again to all of you.

#### Race officer

Our race officer, Mike Foster, was magnificent in the face of the many vicissitudes that the elements threw at him – rain, mist, no wind, weird wind, all on top of the normal Dittisham conditions. Mike and his team on Nikita also had to cope with the unexpected vicissitudes of the 69 competitors as well, especially the PY fleet, which was equally as challenging. And he does all that for love, not money, so that us sailors can go out and have 4 days of excellent sailing – huge kudos and a bundle of heart-felt thanks to Mike.

#### Pilot Financial

It was great to welcome our marvellous sponsor, Ian Thomas of Pilot Financial to the final prizegiving, Their sponsorship is hugely appreciated, and allows us to provide (amongst other things) such amazing food and drink after racing every day, all included in the already excellent value entrance fee.

It was also great to have long time DSC Solo stalwart (and sponsor's dad) Bob Thomas to join us for the prizegiving, and with his other hat, to collect over £320 of 'free drink' donations on behalf of the

RNLI. His old Solo also propelled its new owner (John Misom) to new heights at the top-end of the Solo fleet. Lovely.

### **And finally – On the water...**

#### **Solost**

Reams of highly experienced sailors getting lost on a two mark course? It couldn't happen two days running could it? Yet it did on Sun & Mon in the PY fleet. It surely really couldn't conceivably happen a third time?

But off course it could – with the hattrick looming, the Solos ignobly took up the baton (batten?) of confusion from PY class...

Between the two prescribed simple windward/leeward races, the race officer did what race officers do – and quite appropriately moved the Pilot Financial windward mark (one of only two destinations on the course) a bit, to reflect a slight change in the wind direction. Despite the newly-positioned Pilot Financial windward mark being a 5-foot high-vis yellow inflatable buoy, a not insignificant proportion of the Solost fleet sailed a stunning first beat, taking advantage of an apparent significant wind-shift that none of the rest of the fleet had spotted, all the way to where the Pilot Financial windward mark used to be – before having to bear off rather a lot to where the Pilot Financial windward mark (and the rest of the Solo fleet) actually was. But luckily no-one noticed...

Anyway, out of four days of splendiferous massed and close Solo racing all the way up and down the fleet, some winners emerged. Will Power mucked up Stuart Hydon's perfect record by winning the first race of the day showing that in a decent wind, brawn can overcome other attributes. But in the second, Stuart used his own brawn and other attributes to regain his top-doggedness.

So overall, Mr Hydon showed that he's not just a decent Lark sailor by squiring the Solo fleet with 7 out of 8 wins. Will Loy got his new Winder II Solo working a treat by the end of the week to pocket second, just ahead of Jon Clarke. Ann Biglin was the first of the not insignificant female Solo contingent in 7<sup>th</sup> place, and is intending (as are all the other ladies) to do even better next year.

But in the end, to have an entry of 29 Solos was phenomenal – in the past entire regattas have had less boats. Well done to the lot of you, and keep going, in spite of all the rude comments from other classes.

#### **PY (the fleet that keeps on giving...)**

For once, the PY fleet were bastions of best behaviour and navigational rectitude. So having expended legions of explanatory notes on their bizarre behaviour in past editions, there really wasn't much to gawp at open-mouthed on the last day.

So in brief: It was great to see the lovely Albacore of Jonathan Weeks and Chris Bates win the best-performance headwear for the final day – momentum and Methuselah-like sagacity coming to the fore at last.

Further up: Howard Frear and his Streaker (Jessica from Sutton Bingham) mopped up the PY class win, with Dan Bridger (an Aero from Salcombe) took a last day first and claimed second overall having only been here for three days; while local lad Martin Thomas sailed his way to scholarly third place, via many footnotes to extra marks.

Victory Montgomery in his Topper battled it out with the bigger fastest boats to take 7<sup>th</sup> overall, and the PY2 trophy.

### **Lasers – two rigs, two Hardiman winners**

On the final day in the Laser class, the downtrodden local sailors called in reinforcements in the form of returning prodigal son Sam Mogridge to give Simon Hardiman from Bartley a bit of hassle. Sam put in a sterling effort on behalf of local self-esteem, but could not quite pip Simon to the line in either race. So overall Simon blitzed the Laser class with a perfect 8 wins to take the trophy. Amongst us also rans, Ian Wakeling was the best of the rest, and Peter Symons third. But all agreed it was wonderful to have over 10 Lasers out every day, with brilliantly close racing throughout.

Youth had its fling in the Laser Radials, with very welcome visitors Megan Hardiman, Issy Glazebrook and Millie Hardiman lighting up the racecourse and boat park with their skills, sunny dispositions and enjoyment of all the fun. It was a delight to have all three of them visit us – as well as Max Morrell from Stoke Gabriel representing local youth. Megan and Issy shared the honours on Day 4, with a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> each; leaving Megan as the overall winner with 7 points, and Issy in second with 10 points. With third overall, Sue Thomas held up the end for local maturity, as did Denise Winks. Sue Wingrove from Chew Valley joined in for her first ever race regatta, and enjoyed it so much she's already booked come back next year. Brilliant!

### **PRIZEGIVING**

Post-race nourishment was provided by Amazing Mays Tacos, backed up with a Devon cream tea, all very tasty.

And the ever-so slightly shambolic but charming Prizegiving was presided over by our lovely Commodore Ann-Marie, with prizes handed out by Ian Thomas, resplendent in his sponsor's Pilot Financial shirt.

Everything was rounded off with a very gracious and much-appreciated speech of thanks from Simon Hardiman on behalf of the visitors – this may have been Simon's first regatta win in 42 years, but he has obviously listened well to others in how to say everything so graciously. Splendid.

The 2023 Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta, subject to official confirmation, is scheduled to run from Sun 20 to Wed 23 Aug 2023 (rubbish tides on the Sat). We understand that some of you have already rebooked your accommodation for next year – that's what we like to hear.

It's been lovely having you all at DSC this week, see you all next year

The DSC organising team xx

## PRIZEWINNERS

Detailed results for Day 4 and overall can be found on the Regatta webpage:

<https://dartmouthsailingweek.com/results-2/>

**The following awards will not be found on any official website...**

**Furthest Travelled Award** (Devon flags and a car sticker): **The entire Hardiman family (Millie, Megan & Simon)** for their 200+ mile journey from Bartley, with triple-stacked Lasers

**Furthest Travelled Award (Local division):** Not awarded – it was too bally difficult to work out which of the PY fleet had sailed the most extra laps

**Top Crew Award:** Chris Bates in the Albacore (with Jonathan Weeks)

**Concours d'Elegance Woodiest Boat Award:** To **Joddy Chapman**, some varnishing brushes

**Unicorn Award** (for fantastic belief in entirely unlikely things eg port-tack pin-end starts in a 29 strong Solo Fleet): **Jon Clarke**

**Pugwash Award** (for despicable piratical acts in boarding other vessels): **James Dodd** in the 'Phantom Pearl'