

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

### **Day 3**

Mist, rain and misery for the race officer

Dittisham is a gorgeous place to sail at, but that gorgeousness is somewhat diminished by being bathed in cloud and persistent drizzle. But such were the delights that faced our doughty race officer this morning.

At least there was quite a breeze, which was something – except when the mist and rain finally disappeared, so did the breeze.

Much moving of committee boats, windward marks and pin-ends ensued, as the wind puffed up, down and out under various clouds, drizzle squalls and non-sunny spells. Eventually, in a window of not too much variance, Mike Foster let the milling huge fleet off the leash...

### **PY – Pretty Yuseless?**

How to downplay the goings on in the PY fleet? Yesterday we all joshed about how some of the less attentive and analytical PY sailors had managed to get lost between the first three marks of the course – it could only happen at Dittisham, but at least yesterday there was the excuse that there was a daunting distance to unknown parts ahead of them.

But today, there **were** only two marks in the course, and a finish, but still the PY fleet managed to go astray, with a goodly number choosing to sail an entire extra lap, rather than talking the simple option of counting to two, and heading 50 yards to the finish after the leeward gate.

Best we not dwell on this.... So on the upside, there were some notable performances amongst the navigational woes, for instance Stuart Richardson blasting through for the second best start (as judged by the PRO) of the week in the first race. Only to be upstaged by Mrs Richardson, who made the very best start of the week just ahead of him. Eventually, Stuart took a season's best 5th place on handicap, while Jennie R in her Streaker got a brilliant second.

Howard Frear sailed serenely (and correctly) as ever to secure another two first places today, with the double-handers moving to the fore after the two Streakers in Race 1: Chris Rowsell and Crew no 2 taking third in the Enterprise, and uber-grand master Jonathan Weeks and Chris Bates steering their Albacore into fourth. Great to see the singlehanders not having it entirely their own way in the PY fleet.

In Race 2 after Howard, Dan Bridger (Aero) didn't sail an extra lap this time to take second, as didn't Martin Thomas (D-Zero) for third. Chris Rowsell was fourth in his Enterprise, enigmatically named "HijklomnO", except to all you dingbat experts out there.

### **Laser focused**

Apart from Graham Buckel, who in Race 1 flirted as a PY-wannabe by also initially trying to avoid finishing by setting off on another lap, throwing away at least two places before heading back to sense and the finish, the Lasers & Radials were reasonably well-focussed and madness-free. Plenty of maddening stuff as the beats and runs toyed with everyone's heads, but everyone got there in end.

The Hardiman collective closed out the top places, with Simon (Full rig) and Megan (Radial) taking another two firsts each, and Millie a first race second in the Radials.

Doyenne of the local Radial fleet, Sue Thomas was well up in the first race, before going for the “best roll tack ever” – which it almost so very was, were it not for total immersion transpiring, of which the youngsters around her took advantage. But Sue bounced back for a second in the second. Meanwhile, Issy Glazebrook continued her consistent week with another couple of thirds.

### **Solo academy**

It's always great when our visitors come down and show us the way around our own sailing waters. It's even more lovely when they kindly offer handy tips and sometimes even demonstrations for our improvement.

Today's Solo academy masterclass was conducted before the first race by Toby Peacock from Chew Valley. On being asked by one of our ingenue Solo's how experts such as he 'hovered' so well on the start line, and then tacked away at great speed, proceeded to demonstrate. And what a learning experience – hover – power up – hover – power up – rapid roll-tack – fall backwards into the drink. A brilliant insight, which was immediately put into good effect by wide-eyed teacher's pet Anne-marie who slavishly copied the rapid roll-tack and falling backwards into the drink bit with aplomb halfway up the first beat.

At the pointy end of the Solo racing, the usual suspects did their usual stuff, with Stuart Hydon (1st x 2), Jon Clarke (2nd x 2) and Will Loy and hover/capsize guru Toby Peacock trading 3rd & 4th places. The interesting stuff was happening a bit further down, with Ann Biglin getting another 5th & 6th to complement her amazingly consistent regatta; Alan Walker getting his best result by far (a 10th out of 28) in the first; as did Martin Fodder talking a 12th in the second.

Then all back to dry land for a splendid as ever Belles high-tea followed – thank you so much Belles for bringing it all along, and especially Denise Winks for organising it all from her Laser Radial.

Results for today's races can be found on the Regatta webpage:

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

Last day tomorrow...until next year, which at the moment, subject to official confirmations is scheduled to run from Sun 20 to Wed 23 Aug 2023 (rubbish tides on the Sat). So get your holiday and holiday accommodation booked now - it will be brilliant to see everyone again.