



DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA SAILING WEEK

Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud...Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta Day 1

20th August 2023

The Ditsum mud is great if you are a hippopotamus with a sailing bent, but for the rest of us it is quite 'orrible. We do apologise if anyone lost their sailing shoes, limbs, rudders or trollies etc in it – we will do everything we can to avoid the mud-wrestling tomorrow.

Notices

First the notices – same early morning schedule as today:

- 0830 – Registration desk open – you only need to register if you DID NOT race today
- 0845 – Competitors' briefing
- 0930 – First start

At the Competitors' briefing, the Race Officer will reveal if we will be doing the official long-distance race (as opposed to today's unofficial practice version) OR two round-the-cans races. Whichever we have, we will ensure that our lovely race team know where the club's shortened course flag is!

The legendary Ditsum Belles lunch will be served after racing, and as is the case every day, free soft and alcoholic beverages will be available, absolutely free, subject to the placement of a generous donation to the RNLI in the donational receptacle provided. Notes are always nice – and pay for all your drinks en masse in advance if you like...

On the water...

A massive fleet, our biggest ever attendance, 72-ish boats – thank everyone for coming.

At the briefing, everyone (eventually) expressed themselves understanding of the triangle-sausage nature of the course, so obviously there would be no repeat of last year's multiple misplacements and misdirections. Except at the front of the PY fleet, where Stuart Hydon & Ann Biglin in their Lark, and Martin Thomas in his D-Zero decided that sausages were overrated, and tried to do an extra triangle in Race 1. Luckily for the Lark, this did not stop them winning the Fast Handicap race, but it really didn't help Martin! Giles Bradford won the battle of the Aeros in the first race, to take second, and Tim Littler third in another Aero. In the second, blessedly shorter race, the order was the same, except the Lark (Well Dodgy) left out any detours.

Howard Frear has been a serial winner in the handicap fleet for years, coming down in his Streaker from his lake in Sutton Bingham and showing us how to sail on the tidal waters of Dittisham... However, in the Slow Handicap this year he has come up against firmer challenges – our newly formed GP14 super fleet – and Howard had to settle for second in both races, as Jon Clarke and

Swampy the Mohican chuntered their GP14 to victory in both. Jennie Richardson in another Streaker took third in both races in her normal serene fashion.

And for those who are interested in such things (and apparently there are such people), in the unofficial combined handicap results, Stuart & Ann came top in their Lark in Race 1; while John & Swampy in their GP14 prevailed in Race 2.

Solos

26 of the ever-burgeoning Solo class out today, with another 3 promised for tomorrow. One of the joys of being a member of Dittisham is having visitors from far-flung corners of England coming to our devilishly tricky local waters, and then proceeding to show us how to sail on them. This year it was the turn of the lovely Lewises from Hayling Island to show the locals the way round – with Rosie winning the first race, and Paul reasserting family equality by taking the second. Well done, and we look forward to their tips on how to sail on our own patch!

Our own Mr Spoons in second split the Lewis collective in Race 1, (Mrs Lewis, Mr Spoons, Mr Lewis), while in the second, Dan Bridger brought a bit of Salcombe class to take second after Paul L, with Mr Spoons third. Rosie was fourth..

Laser – Full & Radials.

This year the Laser & Laser Radial fleet have been bolstered to record numbers by the influx of the Stoke Gabriel Laser flotilla from further upriver – and it's also brought a welcome injection of youthfulness into proceedings – well done and lovely to see you, Amelie, Daniel, Riley, Barnaby and Mark (baby of the fleet).

In the Radials today, it was the battle of our own Belles, as Denise Winks and Colleen Pope racked up a 1st & 3rd each to share the lead overall, while Amelie Hammond and Daniel Simmons threw in a 2nd each to keep themselves in the hunt.

In the Laser fleet, decades of Lasering in tricky conditions almost paid off for our beloved veteran Ian Wakeling, as he led the entire first extremely lengthy race from spectacular start to the eighth and final leg, when he was finally overhauled by young(ish) whippersnapper(ish) Nick Barnett. If ever a shortened course flag was deserved, this was that time...and even younger whippersnapper Sam Mogridge came third.

And for the relative sprint-like race at the end, Nick B scored his second bullet of the day, with Ian W second again, and the ever-youthful Mark Flint from Stoke Gabriel a splendid third.

If you want to investigate [the results](#), please use this link:

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

That's all for today, apart from the major mystery of the day – why was Will Loy's pole tossed off into the Committee boat? Strange things occur in the GP14 super fleet...

[See you all bright and early in the morning again,](#)

Cheers,

Steven