



DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA SAILING WEEK

Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta Day 2

21st August 2023

Well, that's how to hold a long-distance race – hold three short and sharp ones instead. Huge kudos to Mike Foster and his team for changing from long-distance to short sharp mode between 7.00am and 8.00am; and promising then delivering said three short sharp races on schedule, and finishing without anyone getting muddy feet. Bravo.

I personally love multiple starts rather than single long races, as it means that having cocked-up in one race, it still leaves you with a clean sheet in the next races to find ever more inventive ways of cocking-up further – which I unfortunately took ample advantage of during the day.

Notices

Firstly, the notices – same early morning schedule as today:

0830 – Registration desk open

0845 – Competitors' briefing

0930 – First start

Given the unexcitingness of Wednesday's forecast, we will be going for another three races on Tuesday, this time with the luxury of even more tide to play with.

Secondly, with Agatha Christie's Greenway home looking on, yesterday's Mystery of the GP Sailor's Wayward Pole has been solved. It appears that Will Loy's impressive shiny pole was pouched unrestrained, causing Mrs Loy to be banged unnecessarily across the head with it – so Will's shiny blue pole was lobbed lazily into the Committee boat, who this morning were delighted to toss it right back in his direction...mystery solved.

Meanwhile...on the water...

With three races across five fleets, I don't have the verbiage to describe in forensic detail the happenings in every fleet/race – but here are a few observations of things what (might have) happened, from the evidence of mine own eyes bolstered by random boat-park hearsay/heresy...

PY fleet (Fast & Not-quite-so-Fast Handicap)

In the Slow Handicap fleet, the GP 14 of Jon Clarke and Swampy the Mohican began similarly dominantly from where they left off yesterday, winning the first race. Word has it that when the wind shifts, it catches in Swampy's radical hairdo, turns his head to the breeze, enabling Jon to work out what the wind's doing, without having to look at the tell-tales.

However, in the second and third race, Howard Frear got his Streakerish mojo going and won both of them – with Chris Rowell and birthday girl super-crew Pauline Mogridge taking a couple of seconds to push the Clark/Swampy GP back into a couple of thirds. All very exciting...

Meanwhile, in the Fast Handicap fleet, Stuart and Ann in Well Dodgy continued their Larkish dominance with three bullets, and Tim Littler in his Aero taking three second places. The third places were dotted about slightly more imaginatively, with Charlie Gillmore (Aero) taking one of them, and Martin Thomas (D-Zero) claiming the other two.

The comment of the day from the PY fleet was an unnamed GP calling “Starboard” on Jonathan Weeks and Chris Bates’s Albacore, until realising that said Albacore was actually also on starboard, but pointing significantly closer to the wind. “Bloody hell, you Albacores can point bloody high” was heard, as the GP tacked off to avoid bearing down into the Albacore amidships. Welcome to the unsophisticated joys of GP14 sailing Mr Loy!

Lasers – Zeroes to Heroes, Heroes to Zeroes

The Full Rig Laser fleet had a new hero today, as Stoke Gabriel tyro Riley Sentence (winner of the first capsizes of the regatta prize yesterday) flew off the start line in Race 1, hit the Dittisham shore to round the windward mark first, and then managed to hold off the uber-experienced Nick Barnett and Sam Mogridge biting at his transom for the next five nerve-wracking legs. Fantastic performance Riley, and a testament to Mark Flint’s race training initiative at SGBA

Yesterday’s Laser hero was Nick Barnett, but in race two and three his heroic halo slipped rather a lot, including 1,000+ degrees of penalty turns for various naughtiness in the second race (and the third wasn’t so pretty either).

Paul Honey finally got going and won the second race, and Sam Mogridge (replete with new sail) took the third.

Quote of the day from the Laser fleet was the first use since a previous century of the that much-missed call of “Mast Abeam”....

In the Radials, Nicky Sheppard had missed yesterday, but hit the ground running this morning, banging in a first straightway, but after that Denise Winks (two firsts) and Colleen Pope (two seconds) reasserted their dominance. But the SGBA race training alumni, Amelie and Daniel are snapping at their sterns, with Theresa Yardy snapping at theirs...

Solo-ng Rosie

If the Regatta were to end today, Rosie Lewis would have prevailed convincingly, having won three out of five races (with another two bullets today), but unfortunately she has a day job back in Hampshire, and will be leaving us this evening. A great shame, and a brilliant performance while it lasted...but on the upside, she has left husband Paul with us to keep the Hayling challenge alive.

Dan Bridger nudged himself to the front in the race that Rosie didn’t win today (and second and third in those she did); with Peter Sturgess, Mr Spoons and Paul L sharing the other seconds and thirds between them. Mike Gilbert threw in a couple of steady fourths as well. There really is some hot competition in the Solo fleet!

If you want to investigate today’s and overall results, please use this link:

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

Droning on...

So that's quite enough of me for tonight, but talking of droning, some of you may have noticed an high-tech flying device buzzing the fleet yesterday. This was official Dartmouth Regatta dronage, and if you look at the link below, you can see what went on yesterday in glorious technicolour moving picture detail...

<https://vimeo.com/856177078?share=copy>

See you all bright and early in the morning again,

Cheers,

Steven