



DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA SAILING WEEK

Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta – Final Day Roundup

24th August 2023

And lo – there was wind...

Day 4 had always looked problematical wind-wise, with slightly less than the square root of bugger-all breeze consistently forecast – so it was with some trepidation that I approached the club foreshore early yesterday morning. But to my surprise, there was a steady stream of wind showing on the water on the Galmpton-Waddeton stretch – things were looking up!

Then people started to arrive, and the more volunteers and competitors who arrived, the more glasslike the whole of Dittisham Lake became. By briefing time there was nothing, absolutely nothing, and Mike Foster took the wise decision to leave everyone ashore, while he wandered out on to the course to monitor the lack of breeze. Lots of glum faces in the gathered throng, at the near certain lack of racing, especially amongst those needing that extra race to improve their overall positions; while our Commodore put together alternative watery entertainment plans to keep everyone occupied while nothing happened until lunch and prizegiving. I had even started finalising the prize-winners based on Day 3 close of play...

But amongst the general air of anti-climax, there were mutterings from certain sage old men of the sea and Nostradamuses who took a contrary view: “look to the East when the gnomon on the sundial shows a quarter past ten bells, and look for the zephyrous sea breeze o’er Flat Owers bank...”

And lo, when the gnomon on the club sundial indeed showed a quarter past ten bells, it happened exactly as the elders had foreseen...and we were released onto the blessed waters with joy in our hearts, and wind fluttering in our sails – our Commodore’s alternative watery entertainments would have to wait for another year.

A short, sweet but perfectly formed race ensued to keep everyone amused before an early lunch (organised by the wonderful Pam Spittle and her team). So sweet and perfectly formed was the race, that even the Cardiff Castle passenger ferry wanted to join in, mixing it in the start area with the starting Solos and finishing fast-handicappers - but being 100ft and twin-Glennifer-diesel powered, the race officer declined her entry.

The race itself sorted out a few final positions, and consolidated others, and sent everyone happily ashore rather less anti-climaxed than a couple of hours earlier...and so ended the Dartmouth Sailing Week Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta @ Dittisham SC for 2023, except for:

A lot of THANK YOUs

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 once again, 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 for especial mention, the lovely Jackie Humphries, hugely assisted by Ross Humphries and Pam Spittle, for tirelessly organising everything ashore this year, from pasties to safety boat rotas, from puddings to bunting – leaving me the rather simpler task of looking after things on the water. Awesome and a big **THANK YOU**.

Race Management Team

Our race management team on board Nikita, led by Mike Foster, were magnificent, given the restraints of lack of time, lack of tide, too much tide, too much mud, typically uncooperative Dittisham winds and no winds on Wednesday. But through flexibility, good race management and the wind finally doing what the local sages predicted on yesterday, we completed the full eight races, and actually finished the racing in time to hold the Prizegiving early!

Well done Mike and team, especially Sue Thomas and Ross Humphries (again), who were also on board for every day ensuring the racing went as smoothly as conditions would allow.

And Mike does all that for love, not money, so that us racers can go out and have four days of excellent sailing – huge kudos and a bundle of heart-felt thanks to Mike & co. Anyone who might be tempted to grumble slightly might like to ponder how they might like to take on the task of trying to keep 70+ recalcitrant boats and unfriendly conditions under control for four days...

Our very generous sponsors of the last few years PILOT FINANCIAL are now known as MOORE KINGSTON SMITH

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; along with daily cap prizes and the mini chartlets for every competitor. Many thanks as ever...

Next year we look forward to it being the Dartmouth Sailing Week Moore Kingston Smith (MKS) Dinghy Regatta @ Dittisham SC

PRIZEGIVING

A nourishing quichey, salady final day lunch and scrumptious puddings were interspersed with our traditional ever-so slightly shambolic but charming Prizegiving presided over by an ever-so shambolic me, with prizes graciously handed out by our lovely Commodore Anne-marie. Well done to all the winners:

- **Denise Winks** in the Laser Radials
- **Sam Mogridge** in the Lasers
- **Jon Clarke & Swampy (the Mohican) Middleton** in their GP14 in the Slow Handicap
- **Stuart Hydon & Ann Biglin** in their Lark in the Slow Handicap
- **Dan Bridger** in the Solos
- **Sailing** as a sport

And finally, everything was rounded off by some very kind words from Dan Bridger (Solo winner) on behalf of the visitors - splendid.

Drinking free beer and wine in aid of the RNLI

The absolutely free beverage service resulted in donations to the RNLI (as counted and audited by my aged mother) of £421.85 – absolutely brilliant. Thank you all for your utterly spontaneous and totally unprompted generosity. I'll be handing it in to the RNLI this afternoon.

The **2024 Dinghy Regatta** (subject to official confirmation) is scheduled to run from Sat 24 to Tue 27 Aug 2024 (morning tides again, but not quite so stupidly early, so we should avoid the infamous Ditsum mud).

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...

Dittisham Tourist Board Awards (Dittisham Fudge): **All our lovely visitors** from Stoke Gabriel, Salcombe, Thornbury, Sutton Bingham, Lensbury & Hayling Island

Furthest Travelled Award (Devon flags & Dittisham Fudge): **Paul & Rosie Lewis** for their 200-mile journey from Hayling Island, with double-stacked His & Hers Solos

Top Crew Award (Beer and/or Cider): **ALL OF THEM** Chris Bates, Pauline Mogridge, Charlie Hussey, Ann Biglin, Kat in Nigel's GP14; and Swampy the Mohican

Youngest Competitor Cap (Cap): **Grace Montgomery**

Not quite the Youngest Competitor Cap (Cup): **Jonathan Nostradamus Weeks**

Conspicuous Gentlemanly Conduct Award (Beer): **Mike Gilbert**

Dummy Spit/Toys out of the Pram Award: Not presented – everyone was remarkably well-behaved and softly spoken – and if they did explete in the heat of the moment, they apologised unreservedly soon after

Permanently Puzzled Award (for continuing bewilderment at Dittisham wind and tidal conditions): to **Ged Yardy**, a Rubik's Cube (it's easier to fathom)

Pugwash Award (for despicable piratical acts in attempting to board other vessels): **Anne-marie Coyle** in the 'Black Butterfly'

(see Drone video@ 1:26 <https://vimeo.com/856177078?share=copy> for shocking footage of said despicable act)

My Little Unicorn Award (for touching belief in lovely but impossible things): Our beloved Race Officer **Mike Foster** for his unworldly attachment and belief in the entirely unlikely concept of running a third race on Day 3!!

That's all,

See you next year...