



DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA SAILING WEEK

MKS Dinghy Regatta @ DSC - Day 1 - Bizarre...

24 August 2024

Ditsum did what Ditsum does – bonkers weather, bizarre sailing, and then all back on shore for a splendid sun-drenched lunch...

MKS Dinghy Regatta Day 1

What can you say? Words can't describe the vicissitudes of our first day, you just had to be there, and live with the memories! Never trust a Dittisham forecast...

But first the notices for tomorrow (Sun) – same early morning schedule as today:

- 0800 – Registration desk open – *you only need to register if you DID NOT race today*
- 0900 – Competitors' briefing
- 0945 – First start (PY fleet)

Let's see what happens – it couldn't be any more vexatious than today?

Day 1

Grim was the only word. 6.30am and I couldn't see Kingswear from Dartmouth, and the forecast of much rain, wind and misery was not in accordance with my normal happy regatta vibes.

My day became even grimmer when I realised I couldn't find my electronic fob for the club door – I checked the back pockets of my shorts from yesterday, every pocket, pouch and crevice of all my sailing bags, down the back of the sofa and car seats, back pockets again, and no bloody fob. Driving down to the club in the pouring rain I was considering all kinds of nefarious ways of breaching the club's Fort Knox-like security – and worrying about how I would live down the shame of being the only Dittisham SC Commodore in living history to have damaged club infrastructure breaking into their own regatta...

But fortunately the lovely Registration Sheila had arrived early with a magic fob, so crowbars, splintered doorframes and broken glass were avoided – thanks Sheila!

Wet wet wet

Wet registration, wet boat prep, and a decidedly damp initial briefing – how lovely. However, the positive energy from all the sailors was palpable (if moist), and my spirits lifted. The initial squelchy briefing introduced our beneficent sponsor Ian Thomas of Moore Kingston Smith

financial advisers; our PRO and organisational team; and hearty Dittisham Fudge was distributed to our lovely visitors from as near and far afield as Stoke Gabriel, Salcombe, Chew Valley, Stoke Bingham, Lensbury and Ranelagh on Thames.

And finally the rain disappeared along with any semblance of a breeze.

Dittisham 1 – Weather forecasters 0.

Some of the competitors' positive energy almost made it through the second briefing (in almost sunshine), despite murmurings, mumblings and even grumblings of confusion about the proffered course – a five-sided triangle, sausage and part-time gate.

With that, the Race Team departed into the building sunshine (but not breeze) and instructed the fleet to stay ashore until further instructions – but the fleet knew better, could smell the chance of racing finally happening, and ignoring instructions launched en masse into the Ditsum wind-shadow and drifted about a bit.

Those who made it to the far side eventually found some wind to allow forward progression against the already ebbing spring tide, and could scope out their tactics for the beat. Stragglers were still drifting in the lee of the club, while others wandered even further away from the sailing area to pick up sunglasses.

But it all came right in the end and racing started, 65 minutes later than hoped.

PY fleet

This year sailing as one fleet, the 16 boat PY class has everything from a Phantom, D-Zeros, an Albacore, Lark, RS200, Aeros, Streakers, GP14 to a Laser 4.7.

An orderly start on the spacious line (of extreme length due to the massed Solos starting later) let the PY boats to more or less choose their ideal spot, and off they trolleyed. Going left seemed to pay, and after the quintagonal triangle and a sausage, Martin Thomas in his D-Zero crossed the line first – but had to cede victory on handicap to Howard Frear and his sunglasses in his Streaker 'Jessica'. Stuart Hydon and Ann Biglin in their new vintage Lark 'Dave' took third.

It was noted on the committee boat that one PY boat (which will remain nameless) with sky-blue sails was so thrilled to finish that it crossed the line three times. The race committee would like to point out that next time this happens, they will use the time of the last crossing of the line in computing results! Be warned.

Laser – Full & Radials.

This year the Laser & Laser Radial fleet have again been bolstered by the Stoke Gabriel Laser flotilla from further upriver – and again it's brought a welcome injection of youthfulness into proceedings – well done and lovely to see you Amelie, Dan, Riley, and Arthur

Despite having a 180m start line to work with, most of the Lasers conformed to habit and bunched at the less-favoured committee boat end. Three Lasers into no space don't go, and two of them managed to ram the committee boat on the wrong (non-start) side, and an elderly gentleman fell into the water – not fast.

At race end in the **Laser fleet**, Sam Mogridge had sailed his usual exemplary race to victory, with Peter 'Outback' Symons in second with Mogridge Senior (Paul) in third

In the **Radials** today, much fun, changing of positions and falling in was had, with eventually youthful Victory Montgomery winning, almost as youthful Chris Tamlyn second and more youthful Arthur Gilmore third.

Solos

We have a record number of Solos this year – 32 entries and another from Salcombe signed up for tomorrow. It seems that the Solo Nationals and bright lights of furthest Essex are not as much of a draw as of damp and delightful Dittisham. I was particularly interested to find out what the Ranelagh boys thought of the River Dart v the mighty River Thames.

In answer it seems that one river is very much like another, with Jack Norton from Ranelagh showing our local lads a thing or two about river sailing and charging off to a win. Local(ish) lad Paul Lewis was second, very local Jon Clarke was third, while Rosie Lewis (in stealth no-number mode) slid into fourth.

It looks like it could be ultra-competitive again this year in the Solos, throughout the massive fleet.

If you want to investigate the results, please use this link:

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

Race 2

With lingering nightmare memories of the Day 1 mud-fest last year, where falling tides and late-running racing led to shoes, limbs and almost an entire GP14 being sucked unceremoniously into the Ditsum low-tidal muddy fundament, the race officer was under pain of death to have everyone back ashore safely un-muddied and smiley today.

Although a shorter second race was planned, the unannounced squall-bomb from nowhere and machine-gun rain soon put paid to that idea, and racing was sensibly curtailed for the day...allowing everyone to repair to the club for a most marvellous lunch (thanks Anne-marie, Mark, Janie & Jenny) in the traditional Dittisham gorgeous sunshine – and all thoughts of grimness were erased.

That's all for today, apart from the best news of the day – when I got home, I straightway found my fob, in my back pocket of course! Grrrr!!

See you all bright and early in the morning again,

Cheers,

Steven & the organising team

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



Goulden & Sons

Haven
Knox
Johnston

HENRI LLOYD

Marlow®

MOORE Kingston Smith



ROCKFISH
tomorrow's fish are still in the sea



TWISTED
MARINE



WOLLENS
Full spectrum law

