DSC DITTISHAM SAILING CLUB

MOORE Kingston Smith

181st Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sailing Week Dinghy Series @ Dittisham SC sponsored by MOORE Kingston Smith - DAY 2

Sparkling Conditions, Windwardless Marks, Handsome Toads & Those Pesky Seals Up To Their Tricks Again…

Day 2 dawned very much as Day 1, with a cheeky little NNE F2 caressing the DSC foreshore. Unlike yesterday, by the time sailors hit the racecourse, it had strengthened into a surprisingly stiff and gusty F3-4, perhaps sometimes more.

It was certainly the ideal day for our official photographer Paul Gibbins to attend, and he says he should have load of splendidly sparkling shots up on his website within a couple of days: https://paulgibbinsphotography.pixieset.com/. Thanks Paul

Unexpectedly gusty conditions? - no problem for Race Officer Arky, as newly emboldened by his inculcation into the Dittisham lassez-faire “sod it and see what happens” ethos, he looked at the fluctuating wind and said “sod it and see what happens”....and what happened was a splendidly square beat and well-set triangle for Race 1, and a quite frankly the weirdest of weird beats for Race 2 to the windlessward mark under the Greenway shore - oh how we chuckled!

I think everyone must have been in the massed fleet intermingling at the windlessward mark in Race 2, so no need to go into that, but with the unexpected strengthy and random gustiness, there were several other points of interest arising - some of which are listed below:

D-Zero sum game

The D-Zero fleet seems to have developed its own unique use of the capsize as an offensive weapon. Before even leaving the beach and still attached to his trolley, Martin Thomas tried to take out two of his rivals by capsizing into the shore and almost capsizing two of his compatriots with him.

Seb Prowse took things up a level at the Race 2 start by careering down the line on port, crashtacking at the last second and hooking his mainsheet around Zippy Zero’s rudder - and over they both went. Seb quickly recovered, Liz didn’t. But she’s a game girl, got herself back in and ended up winning the race! Splendid performance.

Repeat off-fender

[Per RO Arky, who would never embellish upon the truth]

Solo fleet Race 2, cuddly Mike Gilburt was his normal consistent self, coming into the finish for reasonably comfortable 6th or 7th, when he unaccountably attacked the committee boat, virtually ripping all the fenders off as he pinched along the side to finish.

This rather narked Arky, who sent him back to finish properly. Which Mike did, only to be informed that finishing properly involved taking a penalty turn for assaulting Sorena's fenders. This Mike did, only to be informed that said turn must be taken *before* the finish line…so back he went yet again, did his turn, and finally crossed the finish line to Arky's satisfaction.

In finishing thrice, Mike plummeted from 6th to 15th, such is the compacted nature of the Solo fleet…I'm sure there's a learning point in there somewhere for Mike!

Comedy capsizes Day 2

In the rather stronger windiness of Day 2, there was more scope for amusing comminglings with the wet stuff…and the Dittisham Regatta fleet failed not to disappoint…epecially as the naughty seals were once again in vindictive mood…

In Race 1, Johnny Moulsdale was apparently still reflecting on his stunning 4th place the day before, when he found himself rather unsubtly luffed into oblivion and the Ditsum fundus by "a visitor"....oh dear. But Johnny did record another stunning 4th in Race 2 - well done.

John Milsom in his Solo, never one to shirk raising an issue of procedure, was threatening to take the Race Committee to task after Race 1 for not mentioning at the race briefing the Laser shaped spreader-mark at the top of the beat which was there for at least two laps. This extra Laser-shaped mark was apparently caused by Peter Symons' second encounter of the Regatta with a rogue seal!. There appears to be a particularly vengeful rogue harbour seal with a grudge against former estate agents - so watch out Stuart Cartwright!

I also may have fallen in between races trying to replace my water bottle after a sensible hydration break,, but fortunately nobody noticed…!

Nature Diary

Following on from yesterday's aquatic mammal sightings, there was a frisson of excitement amongst Day 2 early arrivals in the Ladies changing rooms when a handsome toad was found sheltering in the corner. A few of the more daring ladies may have proffered a small kiss, hoping it might transform into a handsome Solo sailor - but no hope of that at Dittisham…so it was released into the safety of the wild, where it settled on Liz Potter's Zippy Zero nature sanctuary.

Enough twaddle - see you all tomorrow for what could be a boisterous day!

Steven and the organising team

[Thanks to official photographer Paul Gibbins for the first two photos: https://paulgibbinsphotography.pixieset.com/]

[Photo 3 - a passing Laser sailor]

[Toad photography % Liz Zippy Zero Potter]