

The mast 2017

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE 24 HOUR DINGHY RACE



Photo courtesy of Kit Robinson LRPS

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THE COMMODORE'S WELCOME

As Commodore, it is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to West Lancashire Yacht Club through this edition of The Mast, the official Handbook for the 24 Hour Race in 2017.

I extend a very warm welcome to all of our Competitors, Sponsors, long standing friends, guests and of course our members.

THIS is the 51st year of this magnificent race, which is highly regarded as a feat of sailing endurance and we are expecting a very strong fleet of competitors from our usual classes of GP14's, Enterprises, Larks and Firefly's.

Many sailing Clubs across the country make this a regular fixture within their sailing calendar and it is very pleasing to see those Clubs return year after year. Thank you for your support. We are also delighted to see the return of some Clubs who have not competed for some years and as usual, many have travelled great distances to be here. You are all most welcome.

I remain in complete awe of the West Lancashire Yacht Club Executive Committee which created this event 51 years ago. It is remarkable that in 1967 the West Lancashire Yacht Club Southport Centenary Twenty Four Hour Invitation Dinghy race, to give it its full title, was launched as part of the Southport Centenary celebrations. We have no idea whether it was expected that the event would become a regular fixture on the national sailing calendar but I think those members would be delighted to know that the event is still thriving 51 years later.

At the time of organizing the first race, a new Clubhouse was under construction beside the Marine Lake and we moved in during April 1967 and this is still the home of WLYC today. It must have been a very busy period indeed.

Our Sponsors have again been very supportive for which we are enormously grateful. I would like to welcome Halliwell Jones Southport and Precision Yacht Paint as new sponsors and also thank all of our other sponsors for their ongoing support. I do hope your association with our Club and this event in particular will be long and fruitful.

It probably goes without saying that an event of this sort takes a huge amount of work to stage. This work is almost entirely undertaken by members and long standing friends



of our Club giving of their time and expertise, from Race Management to Catering and Site Management to Marketing. I am very proud of the spirit with which this work is undertaken and take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for the incredible amount of effort that is put into making the event the success that it is.

The social aspect of the 24 Hour Race is as legendary as the race itself and I hope you enjoy the bands and music that have been lined up this year. The Clubhouse bar and the bar in the main marquee will be available and food and refreshment will be available around the clock, including a fantastic Hog roast on Friday evening. As usual there will be as much happening off the water as on it. The Grandstand, re-introduced for the 50th race is also back by popular demand.

It just remains for me to wish all of our competitors the very best and hope everyone has a fantastic weekend of sailing and socializing.

An important date for your calendar next year is the weekend of September 8th & 9th 2018.

I look forward to welcoming you again.

RICHARD BARNES COMMODORE



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



WEST LANCASHIRE YACHT CLUB 24 HOUR DINGHY RACE 2017

9th – 10th September 2017

OVER 30 TROPHIES TO BE WON
70 ENTRIES
OVER 700 COMPETITORS EXPECTED
PLUS SUPPORTERS AND SPECTATORS

**The 24 Hour Dinghy Race organised by
West Lancashire Yacht Club is the dinghy
sailing calendar's toughest endurance race.**

Held annually on the Marine Lake at Southport, the race is the premier opportunity for sailing club teams to compete for serious trophies whilst enjoying the superb hospitality provided by this unique event.

**Readers of Yachts & Yachting voted the event
into fourth place in the list of Top Fifty Events
to do before you die!**



Photo courtesy of Kit Robinson LRPS



It would be fair to say that no single event at WLYC, takes more effort on the part of the club members to organise. The original idea for the race came, about in 1966, from a member of Liverpool University Sailing Club, who was a representative on the WLYC sailing committee. WLYC were at the time planning a race to mark the Centenary of the Borough of Southport, while LUSC were considering a 12 Hour Race for Universities. These ideas built on the success of a British Universities Championship held on the Marine Lake in 1965. Under the chairmanship of Jack Whiteley, the decision was taken to run the event over 24 hours.

The race, which was first held in 1967, is now on its 51st Race. The Race is sailed in four classes of dinghy – Enterprise, GP14, Lark and Firefly, around a standard triangular course of 1.2 miles. Although the waters are relatively safe the Race is sailed continuously for 24 hours with unlimited crew changeover. Even in extreme weather conditions, the race will continue. Therefore a team of several people is required to sail each boat, with most crews changing over quite a few times during the Race, depending on the weather. The change overs take place in the docking area, which provides a good spectator vantage point to see how well the teams manage to keep their boat moving whilst exchanging personnel. Some even manage it with their spinnaker up! Maintenance and repairs to the boat can also be carried out in the docking area if necessary, but thorough preparation of the boat is an absolute must.

During the night the boats carry navigation lights fixed to the shrouds and key points around the lake edge carry lights, but ambient light from the club house and promenade help to provide some illumination to the sailing waters.

There is serious silverware to be won – the most coveted of the over thirty trophies is the Southport Centenary Trophy presented to the winner by the Mayor of Sefton, as explained previously, to commemorate the reason why the Race was first sailed – Southport Borough's centenary in 1967. Keeping score of each boats progress is a team of observers and computer operators using dual systems to help ensure completeness and accuracy. Food is available in a marquee which also plays host to a big party on the Friday night which goes on into the small hours.

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WEST LANCASHIRE YACHT CLUB

THE 24 HOUR DINGHY RACE



Photo courtesy of Kit Robinson LRPS

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WEST LANCASHIRE YACHT CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Kit Robinson
Commodore:	Richard Barnes
Vice Commodore:	Rob Pickering
Rear Commodore:	Jerrold Carr

24 Hour Race Heads of Department

Executive Committee:	Richard Barnes, Clive Porter, Rob Pickering, Jerrold Carr, Ian Donaldson
Principal Race Officer:	Clive Porter
Assistant Race Officers:	Bob Caton, Louise Halliwell, Peter Ashworth
Protests:	Dave Bower
Race Secretary:	Mal Postance
Scoring and Observing:	Steve Caldicott
Computing:	Roger Smith, Kit Robinson, Martin Butcher
Scrutineering:	Jim Gummerson
Patrol Boats:	Skip Reaser, Colin Appleton
Information:	Sue Porter
Prizes and Prizегiving:	Allan Houghton, John Hayward, Mal Postance
Treasurer:	Gill Pinch
Marketing:	Richard Barnes, Jerrold Carr, Julie Ashworth Mike Pickering
Media:	Mike Gribble
Sponsorship:	Jerrold Carr
Receptions:	Angela Dorr
Catering:	Mark Pettifer
Bars:	Bryan Marshall, Phil Lindsey
Clerk of Works:	Bob Abram, Rob Pickering
Main Gate, Security:	Wilco Security
Dinghy Park:	Mal Postance
Cannons:	Chris Appleton

And all of the members of West Lancs Yacht Club who make the event happen.



Photo courtesy of Mike Pickering

SPONSORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WLYC wish to thank our sponsors:

Main Sponsors:

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We would like to thank the following organisations whose help and commitment is vital to the success of this event:

Southport Sailing Club, Southport Water Sports, Southport Lifeboat, Sefton MBC (Tourism and Attractions Department & Parking Services Department), Enterprise Association, GP 14 Association, Firefly Association and Lark Association, St John Ambulance, Wallasey Yacht Club, Waterside Lodge.

And of course, the numerous members and friends of WLYC, without whose help the event could not take place.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

am	Sailing Practice opportunities available until dark
Noon	Information Centre open for entrants Club Bar open
19:00	Hog Roast
19:30	Marquee Bar open – Happy Hour until 21:30
21:00	Band 'The Amp Coil Gurus' until late Then until late – DJ 'Steve Blackburn'

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

08:00	Breakfast available
10:30	Team Captains' Briefing in Marquee
11:00	Club Bar open
11:40	Timing Gun
11:50	Warning Signal
11:55	Preparatory Gun
12:00	Start of 24 Hour Race BBC Radio Merseyside Cup
15:00	Reception for Visiting Commodores
15:00	Singers from The Bothy Folk Club, Southport in Marquee (until 18:00)
16:00	The Golden Oldies Race
19:45	Warning Signal for Navigation Lights
20:00	The Dusk Race for the Dog Watch Trophy Navigation Lights on

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Midnight	The Midnight Cup The Don Ibbetson Trophy
06:00	The Dawn Race for the Stanley Leach Cup
08:00	The Coddington Cup
10:00	The Ladies Race for the Heineken Cup
11:00	Club Bar opens
12:00	Finish of the 24 Hour Race
12:30	Time Limit
13:30	Prize Giving in the Marquee



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COMPETING TEAMS

Enterprise – Blue Firefly – Red GP14 – Black Lark – Green

Team	Race No.	Team	Race No.
Aldridge S.C.	50	Royal Windermere Y.C. (A)	8
Bassenthwaite S.C.	25	Royal Windermere Y.C. (B)	63
Birmingham University S.C.	49	Rudyard Lake S.C.(A)	62
Bolton S.C. (A)	6	Sedbergh School	76
Bolton S.C. (B)	37	Sheffield Hallam University	72
Bolton S.C. (C)	56	Sligo Y.C.	40
Budworth S.C. (A)	10	South Shields S.C.	64
Budworth S.C. (B)(M)	13	South Staffs S.C. (A)	1
Budworth S.C. (C)	59	South Staffs S.C. (B)	2
Burwain S.C.	5	South Staffs S.C. (C)	27
Cambridge University		South Staffs S.C. (D)	52
Cruising Club	31	Southport S.C.	20
Chase S.C. (A)	16	Staunton Harold S.C.	12
Chase S.C. (B)	66	Toddbrook S.C. (A)	30
Chester S & C.C. (B)	37	Toddbrook S.C. (B)	73
Chester S & C.C. (A)	7	Ulley S.C.	71
Covenham S.C. (A)	69	West Lancs Y.C. (A)	3
Covenham S.C. (B)	48	West Lancs Y.C. (B)	14
Crosby Scout & Guide M.C.	70	West Lancs Y.C. (C)	79
Earlwood Lakes S.C.	39	West Oxfordshire S.C. (A)	15
Elton S.C. (A)	21	West Oxfordshire S.C. (B)	23
Elton S.C. (B)	55		
Errwood S.C.	44		
Etherow Country Park S.C.	41		
Hollingworth Lake S.C.	33		
Hoylake S.C. (M)	46		
Jumbles S.C.	68		
Killington S.A.	22		
Lancaster University S.C.	74		
Leigh & Lowton S.C. (A)	24		
Leigh & Lowton S.C. (B)	32		
Liverpool Y.C. (A)	67		
Liverpool Y.C. (B)	75		
Manchester University S.C.	54		
Midland S.C. (A)	17		
Midland S.C. (B)	34		
Midland S.C. (C)	61		
National Firefly Assoc.	9		
Nottingham University S.C.	42		
Pilkington S.C. (A)	11		
Pilkington S.C. (B)	60		
Plymouth S & P.C. (A)	19		
Plymouth S & P.C. (B)	53		
Rossendale Valley S.C.	77		

Please note that the information on this page was correct when this programme went to print – it is possible that changes may be made.

FLIGHT ORDER

Enterprise – Blue Firefly – Red GP14 – Black Lark – Green

Flight 0	Flight 5
1 South Staffs S.C. (A)	50 Aldridge S.C.
2 South Staffs S.C. (B)	51
3 West Lancs Y.C. (A)	52 South Staffs S.C. (D)
4	53 Plymouth University Sailing & Powerboat Club (B)
5 Burwain S.C.	54 Manchester University S.C.
6 Bolton S.C. (A)	55 Elton S.C. (B)
7 Chester Sailing & Canoeing Club (A)	56 Bolton S.C. (C)
8 Royal Windermere Y.C. (A)	57
9 National Firefly Association	58
Flight 1	59 Budworth S.C. (C)
10 Budworth S.C. (A)	Flight 6
11 Pilkington S.C. (A)	60 Pilkington S.C. (B)
12 Staunton Harold S.C.	61 Midland S.C. (C)
13 Budworth S.C. (B)(M)	62 Rudyard Lake S.C.
14 West Lancs Y.C. (B)	63 Royal Windermere Y.C. (B)
15 West Oxfordshire S.C. (A)	64 South Shields S.C.
16 The Chase S.C. (A)	65
17 Midland S.C. (A)	66 The Chase S.C. (B)
18	67 Liverpool Y.C. (A)
19 Plymouth University Sailing & Powerboat Club (A)	68 Jumbles S.C.
Flight 2	69 Covenham S.C. (A)
20 Southport S.C.	Flight 7
21 Elton S.C. (A)	70 Crosby Scout & Guide Marina Club
22 Killington Sailing Association	71 Ulley S.C.
23 West Oxfordshire S.C. (B)	72 Sheffield Hallam University
24 Leigh & Lowton S.C. (A)	73 Toddbrook S.C. (B)
25 Bassenthwaite S.C.	74 Lancaster University S.C.
26	75 Liverpool Y.C. (B)
27 South Staffs S.C. (C)	76 Sedbergh School
28	77 Rossendale Valley S.C.
29	78
Flight 3	79 West Lancs Y.C. (C)
30 Toddbrook S.C. (A)	
31 Cambridge University Cruising Club	
32 Leigh & Lowton S.C. (B)	
33 Hollingworth Lake S.C.	
34 Midland S.C. (B)	
35	
36	
37 Bolton S.C. (B)	
38 Chester Sailing & Canoeing Club (B)	
39 Earlwood Lakes S.C.	
Flight 4	
40 Sligo Y.C.	
41 Etherow Country Park S.C.	
42 Nottingham University S.C.	
43	
44 Errwood S.C.	
45	
46 Hoylake S.C. (M)	
48 Covenham S.C. (B)	
49 Birmingham University S.C.	



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PAST WINNERS

1967	West Lancashire Yacht Club	1992	Bassenthwaite Sailing Club
1968	West Kirby Sailing Club	1993	Bolton Sailing Club
1969	Cambridge University S C	1994	Bolton Sailing Club
1970	Bolton Sailing Club	1995	Bolton Sailing Club
1971	Oxford University Yacht Club	1996	West Lancashire Yacht Club
1972	West Lancashire Yacht Club	1997	Blackpool & Fleetwood Y C
1973	Grimsby and Cleethorpes Y C	1998	Blackpool & Fleetwood Y C
1974	Nottingham University S C	1999	Blackpool & Fleetwood Y C
1975	Northwich Sailing Club	2000	Race cancelled - fuel crisis
1976	Bolton Sailing Club	2001	Enterprise Assoc. Frensham Pond
1977	Winsford Flash Sailing Club	2002	West Lancashire Yacht Club
1978	Bolton Sailing Club	2003	Bassenthwaite Sailing Club
1979	Southport Sailing Club	2004	Bolton Sailing Club
1980	Bolton Sailing Club	2005	Bolton Sailing Club
1981	Tynemouth Sailing Club	2006	The Lark Association
1982	Liverpool University S C	2007	Bolton Sailing Club
1983	Monklands Sailing Club	2008	South Staffs Sailing Club
1984	Southport Sailing Club	2009	South Staffs Sailing Club
1985	Bolton Sailing Club	2010	470 Class Association
1986	London Corinthian S C	2011	Hollingworth Lake SC
1987	Bolton Sailing Club	2012	Hollingworth Lake SC
1988	Sutton Sailing Club	2013	South Staffs Sailing Club
1989	Bolton Sailing Club	2014	South Staffs Sailing Club
1990	Bolton Sailing Club	2015	South Staffs Sailing Club
1991	Winsford Flash Sailing Club	2016	South Staffs Sailing Club



The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) have run a shop at the 24 Hour Race for several years. West Lancs Yacht Club wish to give RNLI every opportunity to raise funds for the valuable work they do.

In 2015, RNLI Lifeboats launched 8,228 times, rescuing 7,973 people and saving 442 lives. There are 237 Lifeboat Stations around the Coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland. RNLI are not funded by central government, they are a charity staffed by volunteers, supported by RNLI shop sales, voluntary contributions, fund raising and legacies.

So here is an opportunity to make a difference – buy your Christmas Cards, Calendars and souvenirs this weekend. The volunteer staff of the local RNLI branch will be pleased to see you.

This year we will also support the work of the Southport Offshore Rescue Trust, a local Lifeboat charity, which is independent of the RNLI, and is focused on safety on the water off Southport beach. We hold on the Sunday afternoon prior to prize giving a raffle draw of gifts provided by Henri Lloyd. Please buy a raffle ticket.



Lifeboats

THE MAST • 2017

The Mast magazine is produced by:

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THE TROPHIES

THE SOUTHPORT CENTENARY TROPHY

(Presented by the Mayor and Corporation of Southport)

THE NATIONAL WESTMINSTER PLAQUE

(Presented by the National Westminster Bank)
for the overall winner

THE K. P. PIGGOTT TROPHY

for the yacht placed second overall

THE WARREN CUP

(Presented by the late V. Warren, Esq.,
a member of W.L.Y.C.) for the yacht placed third overall

THE COMMODORES PRIZE

(Presented by E. Whiteley, Esq., a Vice-President of W.L.Y.C.)
for the yacht placed fourth overall

THE DELMAR BELL

for the yacht placed fifth overall

THE ERIC BROWN TROPHY

(Presented by E. A. Brown, Esq., a Vice-President of W.L.Y.C.)
for the yacht placed sixth overall

THE PRESIDENTS TROPHY

(Presented by R. K. Wilson, Esq., a Vice-President of W.L.Y.C.)
awarded to the club with the best average lap time
cumulated over the last three years

THE LANCASHIRE EVENING POST TROPHY

for the best performance by a Lancashire Club

THE YORKSHIRE CUP

(Presented by Scammonden Water SC)
for the best performance by a Yorkshire Club

THE DON IBBETSON TROPHY

(Presented by Mrs. Ibbetson in memory of D. Ibbetson,
a member of W.L.Y.C.) for the leading yacht at Midnight

THE BOLTON CUP

(Presented by Bolton Sailing Club) for the leading G.P.14

THE R. I. ATKINSON CUP

(Presented by the late R. I. Atkinson, Esq.,
a Vice-President of W.L.Y.C.) for the leading Enterprise

THE GRANVILLE S. WALLIS CHALLENGE TROPHY

(Presented by G. S. Wallis, Esq., Past Commodore,
West Kirby Sailing Club) for the first Club to sail 100 miles

THE MANULIFE TROPHY

for the winner of the University teams

THE GJW DIRECT TROPHY

for the 1st Place Firefly

THE LADIES TROPHY

for the 1st Place Ladies Team

THE MERSEY TILLER

(Offered by Liverpool University S. C., originally presented
by Royal Mersey Y.C.) for the leading Enterprise
sailed by a University Club

THE HAYWARD CUP

(Presented by the late G A. Hayward, Esq.,
a Vice-President of W.L.Y.C.) for the leading Lark, GP14
or Firefly sailed by a University Club

THE B.B.C. RADIO MERSEYSIDE CUP

for the fastest first two laps

THE DOG WATCH TROPHY

(Presented by Mr & Mrs. R. S. Harper, members of W.L.Y.C.)
for the dusk race, the fastest lap next after 20.00 hours

THE MIDNIGHT CUP

(Presented by the late Cyril Davis, former Steward
of W.L.Y.C.) for the fastest lap next after midnight

THE STANLEY LEACH CUP

for the dawn race, the fastest lap next after 06.00 hours

THE CODDINGTON CUP

(Presented by the late W. Coddington, Esq.,
Commodore of W.L.Y.C. 1906 -1919)
for the fastest lap next after 08.00 hours

THE KICKING STRAP TROPHY

(Presented by the 1969 House Committee of W.L.Y.C.)
for the best position by a Club which has not won any
other major award, and is based over 100 miles
from Southport

THE HEINEKEN CUP

awarded to the yacht sailing the fastest lap,
with female helm and crew, started next after 10.00 hours

THE SIMMS MITCHELL TROPHY

(Presented by Mrs Betty Simms Mitchell in memory
of her late husband Alderman J. Simms Mitchell)
for the winner of the Masters Race

RED ROSE CUP

(Presented by W. R. Aspin, a Vice-President of W.L.Y.C.)
for the leading Lark

THE PAPER COURT TROPHY

for the second placed Enterprise

THE PILKINGTON SC TROPHY

for the third placed Enterprise

THE PORTER TROPHY

(Presented by the Porter family)
For the yacht with the fastest 50th lap time on handicap

FLIGHT WINNERS TANKARDS

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subject to reasonably continuous sailing.



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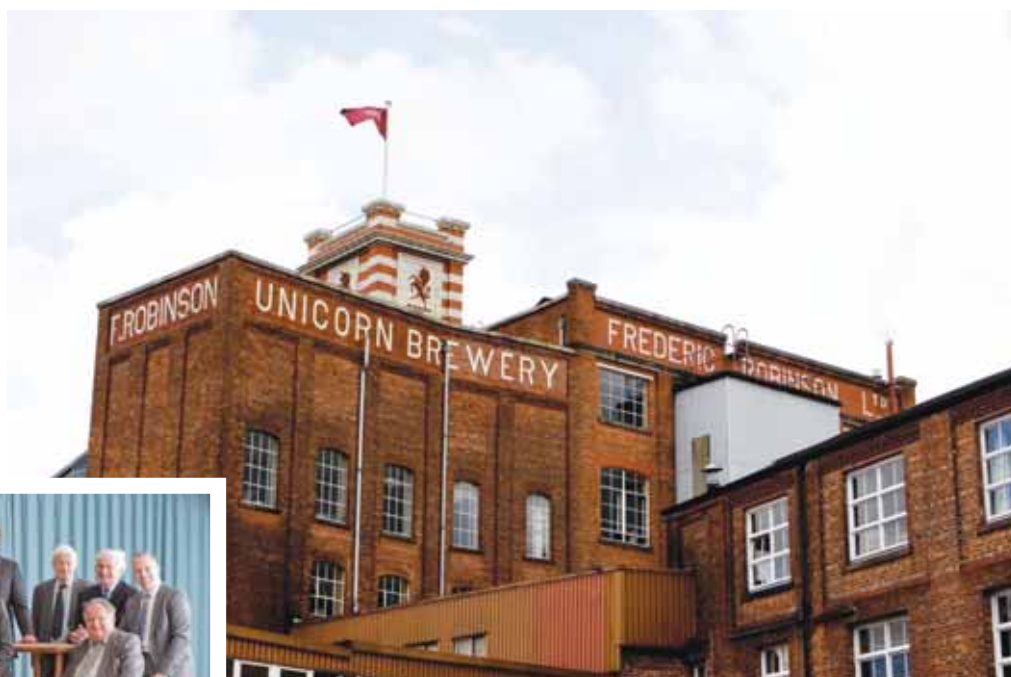


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THE 24 HOUR DINGHY RACE



Photos courtesy of Kit Robinson LRPS



ALLEN ENTERPRISE NATIONALS 2017 AT SOUTH CAERNARVONSHIRE YACHT CLUB

The Enterprise Class held its National Championship this year at Abersoch, hosted by South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club, from 6th to 11th August. The event was generously sponsored by Allen, Rooster, Selden, SpeedSix, and T&L Leasing.

Report by Phil Bevan





A

TTENDANCE was down on recent years, but it was still very competitive on the water and very sociable off the water. In this one design class boats ranged from the latest epoxy creations to the traditional varnished wooden boats. Two of the top three were over twenty years old, Tony Prior built boats.

An interesting development this year was the number of fathers attending with their daughters. The girls both sailed and partied hard!

The first day was disappointing with no racing taking place, but this was of little consequence in what turned out to be an absolutely excellent week of racing. The Race Team, led by Chris Hoppins, did a brilliant job with very little waiting around on the water and great courses.

In the first day of racing, Monday, 3 races were held in a nice F3 out in the bay. Phil and Laura Bevan won the first race, followed by Dave and Beth Porter (note the "father/daughter" theme). Race 2 and 3 were won by Jeremy and Rebecca Stephens (another "father/daughter" team). Phil Ford and Jane Humpage (not father and daughter) were second in Race 2 and Martin and Abigail Honnor (yes – "father/daughter") were second in race 3.

The second day brought more wind, F4. This proved to the liking of Paul Hobson and Craig Wheatley who banged in two bullets in races 4 and 5. There was a slight drama during race 5 when Paul and Craig got to the windward mark only to realise they had no idea where the wing mark was. The fleet blindly followed them towards the shore, until eventually the mark was spotted way downwind. The fleet then peeled off to go virtually side by side down what was now a run. Martin and Abigail came second in race 4 and Jeremy and Rebecca second in race 5.

Racing resumed on the Thursday after the lay-day. Race 6 was held in light winds F2/3 with the windward mark under the cliffs towards Pwllheli. This resulted in some big





This was the Facebook conversation that took place when the crews were asked about their recollections of the race:

“Race 8 – it was too windy and Millie wanted to cry for the majority” – Millie

“I was terrified and thought I was honestly going to die” – Becca

“I cried” – Beth

“Had a lil' birthday girl paddy” – Beth

“Think I got whiplash from them waves” – Meg

“It was literally like being waterboarded for the entirety of the beat” – Millie

“At least nobody died” – Millie

“Race 8 us and the Bevans were always right next to each other on the runs and me and Laura just pulled terrified faces at each other the whole way down” – Becca



holes and interesting wind shifts. There were some big place changes; one of the more dramatic being when Phil and Laura whilst near the front of the fleet took an extreme left route on the second beat leaving the rest of the fleet to head out to sea – only to lose at least 10 places. At the end, it was the reigning National Champion, Tim Sadler sailing with Millie Pryke that mastered the conditions to get the win. Ann Jackson and Alan Skeens were second.

For the second race of the day (race 7), the course was re-set towards the west in better wind. A slight pin bias and a favoured left side saw the leading group of boats emerge from there. Phil and Jane, Phil and Laura, and Tim and Millie, rounded the windward mark in that order. Tim however timed his gybes to perfection to pull ahead on the run. These three pulled out ahead and after a close battle, it was Tim and Millie who got their second win of the day, followed by Phil and Jane, then Phil and Laura.

The entertainment for Thursday night included the very popular band "Elephant Juice". It all got very lively with the fleet going for it in their fancy-dress costumes. Two new Selden booms were on offer – one auction, one raffle. Seeing what was to come the following day, this was very appropriate. The fancy dress was "Pirates" or "name of your boat". Charles Morrish sails "Tutu Won One Too" (boat number 22112 get-it?) and hence, after bribery of £200 to the RNLI, he actually wore a tutu!

The forecast for Friday had always been rather scary looking. So, when the fleet gathered on the beach with the wind howling, there was more than a degree of trepidation. However, this turned out to be one of those days that anyone taking part will never forget. What followed was "the mother of all dinghy races", a day of drama, for some a day of carnage. Getting down to the start was exhilarating enough, but then the wind and waves increased! Ges Brown and Julie Moore decided to live up to their boat name "Wimp" and headed in.

As the boats lined up for the start, there was a large bunch at the committee boat. Phil and Laura came close to T-boning the committee boat, only to be

saved at the last minute. The boat below, Andy and Sarah Gomm, got a bit too close to Nick Jackson and Molly Nixon their boom snapped as it touched Nick and Molly's foredeck. They were the first of many retirements. Phil and Laura therefore fluked the perfect start.

The beat was hard work with mains frequently flogging. Paul and Craig were doing well when their kicker failed and they had to stop for repairs. At the windward mark it was Martin and Abigail first closely followed by Phil and Laura. If the upwind leg had been full on, what came next was a whole different league.



The wind had been against the tide and a big swell had built up. Martin on rounding the spacer mark and bearing away onto the run, immediately got swept out of the boat, followed by a spectacular capsize and an "expletive deleted". For those who successfully bore away, the run involved going airborne off the waves with frequent wild rolls and mighty crashes into the backs of waves. With a gate at the bottom, it was in theory possible to get round without a gybe, but most had to do at least one gybe a lap. Down the first run Jeremy and Rebecca showed outstanding (foolhardy, idiotic) downwind speed to fly past Phil and Laura to lead through the gate. However, Phil and Laura had mastered the upwind better and were clearly ahead by the windward mark. They nearly lost it though when, after bearing way onto the run, they had a coming together with a boat on the beat. Yet again Jeremy and Rebecca went for broke and let it rip downwind. They sneaked into the lead just before the finish, but having sailed hotter angles needed to do two extra gybes to get through the gate. This allowed Phil and Laura to get on the inside and claim their second race win. Slightly further back, Tim and Millie had rounded the windward mark in 3rd place – enough to get them on the podium overall. Unfortunately for them a charge to the left of the run didn't work out and Ann and Alan, Jon Woodward and Karen Alexander, and Paul and Craig got through.

The drama hadn't finished though, as a whole fleet of beating offshore racing yachts with dozens of crew on the rail decided they had to sail the Enterprise course and one went right through the leeward gate!

With enough excitement having taken place, the race officer decided to call it a day – and the end of the championship. That just left a long, long beat in something close to a F7 to get back ashore!

With the points all added up it was a clear and well deserved overall win for Jeremy and Becca Stephens. They finished in the top 10 in all races with a discard of 7th. This is their first National Championship victory and are a popular and well-liked team. Phil Ford and Jane Humpage came second, for the second time in a row, with Phil and Laura Bevan in third. Last year's winner Tim Sadler came fourth.

Silver fleet was won by Andy and Sarah Gomm. Bronze fleet was won by Paul Young and Emma Coleman. First under 21 helm was James Driver and first under 18 crew was Molly Nixon. First Lady helm and first Veteran was Ann Jackson crewed by Alan Skeens, who were only one place ahead of Alice Allen and Sharkey. First married couple was Jane and Nick Scutt.

Rooster donated sets of jib sheets for the boat that came last in each race – but you couldn't win more than one set. So, with 9 races planned – a lot of boats now sport some fancy new ropes. The lowest placed boat, all races completed (not last

overall and including that last race!) went to Robin Broomfield and Paul Bloomfield, who also won the Allen Best Improver nomination for demonstrating the most competitive improvement over the championship week.

It was an excellent championship; superb sailing, brilliantly organised, and fantastic fun! Once again, many thanks to our valuable sponsors: to Allen for the very generous overall prizes; to Selden for donating two booms for raffle and auction; to T&L Leasing for sponsoring the social events, to SpeedSix for their great race day prizes and hull polish for all; and Rooster for the last place jib sheet prizes and neckwarmers all round.

The next National Championship event will be the Youths (under 21) to be held at Bristol Corinthian YC on the weekend of 23rd / 24th September, this having had to be moved from Barnt Green SC on 2nd/3rd September due to maintenance work and lack of water. There will be training on the Saturday provided by acclaimed coach, Adam Bowers, and the actual championship races on the Sunday.

Pictured:

- ① Winning Club BCYC ② 1st Lady Helm • Ann Jackson
- ③ 2nd Overall • Phil and Jane ④ Race 8 Winner • Phil & Laura Bevan
- ⑤ 4th Overall • Tim and Millie ⑥ Selden boom auction winner • Alice
- ⑦ Allen Best Improvers • Robin and Paul ⑧ Champions • Jer and Becca

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