

TUESDAY

After the strong winds of Monday both Race Team and (most) competitors were relieved as the forecast came true with lighter winds of 10 to 12 knots and many more of the near 300 entry took to the water.

On Series A the race team expected a solid 270 degree wind of about 12-15 knots but half an hour before the scheduled start time the wind oscillated between 250° and 310° and from 8 to 15 knots. Courses were set up on 260, but with windward mark slightly further north, out of the tide, and the gybe mark on the Winner bank. About half way through the starting sequence the wind backed to 245 which affected the course and only a couple of boats in the Asymmetric and one boat in the RS200 fleet sailed to the correct the windward mark! In the Finns both 587 and 61 led the fleet across the line early prompting a general recall and delaying the last three fleets getting away on time. That apart it was a perfect day on the water in bright sunshine, providing competitive racing in all the fleets and particularly close finishes in the Fireballs and Finns.

On Series B it was similarly a very different day with gentler winds and calmer seas, although the wind still proved a little challenging, swinging wildly between 230 and 300 degrees. The course was finally set on 255° and the competitors were dispatched on time, without any recalls. Similarly to Monday, the reaches proved exhilarating with both the 420s and Fevas displaying their speed skills. As the wind gusted up to 15 knots, a number of boats provided spectacular displays of capsize.

Series C competitors, both young and old, were similarly relieved with the lighter winds after losing all racing yesterday, and the conditions proved excellent with a fresh westerly breeze. The Slow handicap had a great mix with Topper, Tera Pro's and Scows, following a long course which took them to Mill Rythe and Mengeham Creek, a new trip for many. The Topper broke away with others in hot pursuit, and after a good race the Topper took the Line honours with Tamsin Hoult at the helm, the Keyhaven Scow took second place by 19 seconds on handicap from the Tera Pro, of Ollie Bradshaw.

The Tera Sports and Optimists had two races which were sailed with great ability by the young crews, not one capsize during racing! In the Tera's Ben Ripley won convincingly the first race, but a close fought match in the second race saw Thomas Leather take line honours followed by Toby Field. The two Optimists had close racing with Platon Khodykin winning both races. The great sailing was complimented by the good sportsmanship and manners of the crews. Tomorrow will be a longer afternoon with 3 races now scheduled for the Teras and Optimists.

Seven Elites took to the Series D course today, with Ossie Stuart leading on race 1 from start to finish, closely followed by Andy Partington, over 3 rounds of their course in Hayling Bay East. On the second race with an additional round, competition was greater with the lead changing on several occasions and Paul Fisk finally taking line honours by half a boat length.

Robert Macdonald.