

CHRW Tuesday 10th August

It looked like a good SW sea breeze was building for the second day but at midday, as a larger fleet headed out into the harbour, the land heated, the wind died and backed to the south. Racing was postponed to let the wind settle in the forecasted 220° direction but this took a while and high tide was approaching! Therefore, the decision was made to get under way with a Series A start line near the entrance to the Thorny channel and the windward mark on the Winner bank but close to the east head shore on a 215° bearing. The Fireballs went off first on a very port end biased line as the wind had tracked back to 180! Thankfully for the 2nd start, the Fast Handicap fleet, the wind backed to 210° and eventually settled to the forecast 220° meaning the course worked out pretty true. That was not the end of the drama as an hour into the race the wind dropped to 4 knots at the windward mark and with a tide now on a strong ebb a hasty shorten course was signalled for most classes.

The team of Dave Hall and Paul Constable once again lead the Fireballs home closely followed by Simon Kings and Caroline Stockman. The RS400 sailed by Steve and Sarah Cockerill ignored the port bias to start by the committee boat and tack onto port. They won by a huge margin on corrected time. The Flying Fifteens winner for this day was Andy Jameson crewed by young daughter Martha (her first time in a FF!). James Jenkins from Emsworth SC in his Devoti was took the gun in the Hadron H2, Aero 9, Devoti Zero fleet. The Finns also had a different boat at the front with Julian Smith from Mengham Rythe winning by a comfortable margin. Continuing the theme of different winners (every class except the fireballs), the Fast Asymmetric victor was Christian Reynolds in his Musto Skiff. Ben Tuttle and Will Batch took the gun again in the 29ers whilst the RS200 were won by Lee and Anne Sydenham making them the 3rd same family boat to win in Series A two handed classes today!

Sunshine makes all the difference. Series B saw a big increase in boats coming to the start line. With a start near Pilsey Sands and a windward mark in the vicinity of the Winner bank a balanced beat against the tide for all starters. 7 Teras came out to join in with all their bigger brothers and sisters. Ned Coles recorded another first so maybe a big day for him tomorrow?

The Medium handicap fleet saw 29 finishers with a great battle in the 9 Laser 2000s which was won by Jeremy Mitchell and Megan Gately putting them in the lead overall. Some tight racing was seen in the Aero 5 fleet, some so close they looked like they were match racing at times, Hilary Baker just leads Paul Hammett overall by 1 point so undoubtedly more hand to hand combat to come in this fleet. 22 Aero 7s filled the horizon as they came down the run on split gybes, Mark Riddington holds the overall lead but by only 2 points, ahead of John Derbyshire. There will be no easy wins in that fleet.

Competitor feedback and a great turnout would suggest that today was truly a memorable Race Week day with the tricky winds in the beautiful Chichester Harbour - and yes the sun was shining. Afternoon starts and a good forecast suggests there is more fun to come.

Greg Wells & David Nicolls