

CHRW Friday 13th August

It may have been Friday 13th but the weather gods delivered the best for the last day of CH Race Week 2021.

A perfect 12-16 knots from 235° enabled a Series A course to be set with a start line near Thorney and a long first beat to a windward mark near Calvert then a gybe mark near North Pilsey giving just about perfect 3 sail reaches in full planning conditions. On top of this, despite a forecast for overcast skies, the sun also came out to play. In the Fireballs most of the fleet headed toward East Head but it was Keith Walker and Rhys Pickett who went the stocker bank route and led comfortably at the windward buoy and then flew down the reaches. Unfortunately for them a bit of gear trouble undid their progress and it was David Sayce and Steve Kyfiin who came through for a well-deserved win. In the Fast handicap where overall honours were still up for grabs it was a day for the Osprey team of Richard Marshall and Nick Willis who really excelled in the conditions to record a fine win but overall it was the Condender of David Patterson who did enough to win the series. In the Flying Fifteens Andy Jameson and James Grant stayed close during start manoeuvres to their rivals Nick Peters and Guy McBride slipped past them on the first beat and then showed great boat speed to win the race by a good margin and win overall. David Valentine in his Devoti took his second win in the DevotiZero, Hadron H2 and Aero9 class but Tom Southwell also in a Devoti had already sewn up the week on Thursday. There were 3 boats in overall contention for the Finn class at the start and although Simon Pettit at last showed better form (different mainsail?) to win, it was Julian Smith from Mengham Rythe Sailing Club who won the week by coming 2nd today with just 2 points separating the top 4 boats. Another masterclass of RS800 sailing powered Tom Morris and Guy Filmore to their 3rd consecutive win and with this the overall weeks honours. It may have been different if Theo Galyer in his RS700 didn't drop his tiller extension at the start causing him to capsize. He did an amazing job to pull back to 2nd on corrected time. In the 29ers, Ben Tuttle and Will Balch would have completed a clean sweep of five firsts, but they crossed the finish line a round early which allowed Adrian Williams and Ben Stokes to win today. In the 200's, Tommy Darling sailing with his sister Charlie came out to play and this time sailed through the correct finish line to record the win.

Overall, it was a classic CHRW with the winds and sunshine allowing good courses and great racing to be had by all. Prizegiving made for a special very occasion when local HISC Olympian Eilidh McIntyre, hot from winning her gold medal in Tokyo kindly presented the prizes.

Greg Wells & David Nicolls