



Harken National Championships

Ullswater Yacht Club, Pooley Bridge

12th to 17th August 2012

Results and report – preliminary

Overall

Pos	Club	Sail	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Pts	
1st	Martyn & Jack Lewis	Draycote	3834	G	1	1	1	(2)	1	1	(5)	1	1	2	9
2nd	Nick & Indigo Smith	Thornbury	3805	G	6	2	(15)	1	3	(DNF)	1	4	4	1	22
3rd	Ally, Harry & Phoebe Jones	Draycote	3847	G	4	6	3	(15)	(7)	3	3	5	2	3	29
4th	David & Ross Southwell	Leigh & Lowton	4010	G	2	9	(OCS)	5	2	5	2	(13)	5	4	34
5th	Neal Gibson & Keith Macey	Redoubt	4040	G	5	7	2	(12)	4	4	(10)	8	6	8	44
6th	Eamon & Lauren Cuthbert	Leigh & Lowton	4016	G	3	5	5	(9)	6	(13)	6	6	7	7	45
7th	Jack Hopkins & Angela Sweeney	Delph	3835	G	8	4	4	(11)	(11)	9	4	11	3	10	53
8th	Wayne Atherton & Liz Evans	Delph	3383	G	(12)	8	6	4	(9)	6	8	7	8	6	53
9th	Tracy Amos & Gemma Gibson	Redoubt	3692	G	(11)	10	10	3	10	7	9	3	(19)	5	57
10th	Richard & Fergus Pye	Draycote	3330	G	9	(16)	11	7	8	2	(DNF)	2	10	9	58
11th	Jon & Phillip Aldhous	Beaver	3794	G	15	12	7	10	(20)	(16)	7	12	9	14	86
12th	Peter Cuthbert & Mark Atherton	Leigh & Lowton	3747	G	(14)	14	8	8	(DNF)	8	12	14	14	11	89
13th	Stan Lubner & Brian Henline	Welton	4043	G	10	11	16	18	13	(DNC)	(DNF)	17	18	17	120
14th	Dave Butler & Dave Smith	Welton	4045	S	(24)	(27)	12	21	18	18	11	19	12	13	124
15th	Iain & James Wilkinson	Leigh & Lowton	3480	S	22	(35)	9	14	17	17	14	(DNF)	13	23	129
16th	Ian & Molly Southwell	Leigh & Lowton	3496	B	19	22	(DNC)	13	(DNC)	11	15	15	15	19	129

Junior Series

Singlehanded race

Crews race

Youth Series

Non- spinnaker race

Practice race

Harken Miracle Nationals at Ullswater Yacht Club, Pooley Bridge, Cumbria - Sunday 12th to Friday 17th August

by Neal Gibson and Gillan Gibson

41 boats arrived at Ullswater Yacht Club for a weeks racing at this family friendly venue in the glorious Lake District.

Day 1 - Sunday - Practice race and Race 1

Winds across the width of Ullswater are a Race Officers nightmare as the direction and speed can swing in the blink of an eye – and they did that first day of sailing. The fleet was taken to Sharrow Bay to find the best conditions, but it was still a challenge to follow the shifts and make the best of what was on offer.

Practice race

The shifting winds resulted in major opportunities for loses and gains, many boats finishing well above or below their usual positions. In the end the winners were Ally and Harry Jones (3847), with Nic and Indigo Smith (3805) second and Jack Hopkins and Angela Sweeney (3835) third.

Race 1

The windshifts continued, but the fleet was working them out and more usual positions were the rule. Winners were Martyn and Jack Lewis, followed by David and Ross Southwell (4010), with Eamon and Lauran Cuthbert (4016) third.

Gillan Gibson

Day 2 – Monday – Races 2 & 3

Overcast skies to start the day but there was a promising wind blowing down the lake, rather than across it. A postponement was raised at 10:30 to allow the wind to settle and moderate slightly.

Eventually the fleet was released from the shore for run to the start under fighter escort as 2 RAF Tornados flew JUST over the mast heads.

Race 2

Race 2 got underway with more than a little port end bias leading to some overcrowding at the pin end, however, the fleet got away cleanly. Martyn and Jack Lewis (3834) led at the windward mark followed closely by Richard & Katy Byne (3678) and Ally & Harry Jones (3847). A raft formed at the gybe mark allowing the leaders to pull out a nice lead. A wind shift led to a one sided beat up the next leg. On the last lap

a cruel wind shift upset the applecart allowing Nick and Indigo Smith (3805) to take second.

Race 3

Race 3 started with a lot less line bias but more breeze. Peter Cuthbert and Mark Atherton (3747) led at the windward mark after going hard right, closely followed by Neal Gibson & Keith Macey (4040) and Dave & Ross Southwell (4010). By the gybe mark Martyn and Jack Lewis

had climbed to 5th after getting stuck out on the left in one of Ullswater's famous holes.

Up the next beat Martyn and Jack pulled through to second, then first, by the windward mark closely followed by Neal and Keith. Ally and

Day 3 – Tuesday – Races 4 & 5

The day dawned with a steady breeze blowing down the lake, a perfect direction for Ullswater. As the fleet launched the breeze died and a drift to the start ensued. After waiting for all the boats to arrive at the start the breeze filled back in again on cue as the gun went.

Race 4

With a heavy starboard bias on the line the fleet were slightly eager to get going so after 2 general recalls the line was re-laid with a hint of port bias and a black flag to keep the fleet in check. Nick and Indigo Smith took advantage of the line sag to get a clear start and sail off into the distance not to be seen again till the finish. 2nd round the windward mark was Ian and Molly Southwell (3496) who sailed well left and played the shifts up the bank, closely followed by Tracy Amos and Gemma Gibson (3692).

Harry Jones were on a mission and picked up a big gust and arrived at the gybe mark to find Martyn & Jack and Neal & Keith parked up in no breeze. Martyn & Jack got to the breeze first followed by Ally and Harry, demoting Neal and Keith to third. Up the last beat Martyn & Jack

On the second beat Martin and Jack Lewis pulled through the fleet after being forced out at the pin. On the sausage leg downwind Ian and Molly slipped down the fleet as a non-spinnaker entry and Martin and Jack sailed though to second.

Race 5

With the wind still light a good start was key to success, unfortunately this led to another general recall so the race officer decided that the black flag was required straight away on the restart. One boat fell foul of the black flag and headed home early. Dave and Ross Southwell rounded the windward mark first followed by Martyn and Jack Lewis, and the following pack consisting of Richard & Katy Byne, Eamon & Lauren Cuthbert (4016), Nick & Indigo Smith and Richard & Fergus Pye (3330).

rounded first followed by Neal & Keith and Ally & Harry. Martyn and Jack took the gun followed by Neal & Keith and Ally & Harry.

Neal Gibson

Down the first reach Eamon and Lauren sailed high to hold off Nick and Indigo whilst covering Richard and Fergus. Neal Gibson and Keith Macey took advantage of the pack sailing high and picked up a gust and sailed low to the gybe mark to move to 4th place behind Richard and Fergus.

Up the next beat Martyn and Jack sailed past Dave and Ross to take the lead and Neal & Keith passed Richard and Fergus. Places remained unchanged down the run. On the final beat Nick and Indigo played the shifts to pass Neal and Keith and held the position down the run to the finish.

Neal Gibson

Day 4 – Wednesday – Races 6 & 7

The forecast was for big breeze later in the day. So a prompt start was planned with 2 short races to get them in before the breeze. The fat boys had other ideas and wanted to wait for the breeze so two general recalls later the black flag made its appearance, not for the first time.

Race 6

A heavily biased port line eventually got the fleet away for the 2 lap course. Richard and Fergus Pye led at the windward mark followed by Martyn & Jack Lewis and Neal Gibson & Keith Macey. A tight first reach allowed Martyn and Jack to catch Richard and Fergus by the gybe mark and pass him on the next reach. At the leeward mark Martyn and Jack led from Richard & Fergus and Neal & Keith. Up the next beat Ally

& Harry Jones and Dave & Ross Southwell passed Neal and Keith at the windward mark. Down the run the gusts started to come through and Neal and Keith picked a big gust all the way down to the leeward mark to pass Dave and Ross and almost catch Ally and Harry.

Race 7

With the wind still on and the line still set for heavy port bias the black flag was raised straight away. A longer course was set as the wind hadn't increased as much as forecast.

Richard and Fergus Pye won the pin but Ally and Harry Jones were first to round the windward mark. The first reach was tight and breezy and some fast planning was had by all. Nick and

Indigo Smith were moving fast, but unable to carry the big gusts past some of the leading boats.

Capsizes led to some place changes throughout the fleet. By the last lap Ally and Harry had extended to a seemingly unbeatable lead coming down the last reach. Nick and Indigo were flying their kite and just keeping their boat in the water, further back Jack Hopkins and Angela Sweeney (3835) opted not to fly the kite which allowed Dave and Ross Southwell past. Up the next beat Ally and Harry went the wrong way allowing Nick and Indigo, in her glamorous PINK BOUYANCY AID, to slip into first followed by Dave and Ross Southwell.

Neal Gibson

Day 5 – Thursday – Races 8 & 9

After the rain the previous afternoon it was nice to see the sun make an appearance, then promptly disappear behind a rain cloud and appear again, then disappear, setting the scene for the day.

Race 8

This day the fleet decided to behave and so the black flag stayed away. The fleet got away off the port biased line and split left and right as both sides appeared even. At the windward mark Martyn & Jack Lewis and Richard & Fergus Pye made a clean get away from the windward mark. As the race progressed the wind died and switched left and right allowing the tactical

prowess of Tracy Amos and Gemma Gibson to sail past everyone upwind and round the windward mark in 3rd behind Martyn & Jack and Richard & Fergus. The leaders sailed away down the last run leaving the chasing pack to fight over 4th.

Race 9

With the nationals won by Martyn and Jack Lewis 2nd place was the one to play for in race 9. The fleet got away cleanly again in an increasing breeze. Half the fleet headed left into lighter breeze and half split right towards more breeze. First round the windward mark were Martyn and Jack Lewis followed

by a pack of 5 boats all close together. Up the next beat the boats that went right climbed places over those who opted for left. Down the first sausage the leeward mark was being moved which caught out a few who had opted to go right down the run. Martyn and Jack were still leading, closely followed

by Jack Hopkins and Angela Sweeney. The beat stayed an even affair as the boats spread out. Down the last leg Ally and Harry Jones sailed past Jack Hopkins and Angela Sweeney to take 2nd.
Neal Gibson

Day 6 – Friday – Race 10

Shifting winds, both in speed and direction reappeared and the fleet was held ashore until the situation settled.

Race 10
Steadily increasing winds set a challenge and it was Nick and Indigo Smith who made the best of

it to finish first, with Martyn and Jack Lewis 2nd and Ally and Harry Jones 3rd.
Gillan Gibson

Notes from the Bronze Fleet

You don't have to be at the front of the fleet to have good racing, places were just as hard fought at the back. Race 9 finished with the last 3 boats finishing within seconds, having raced as hard as they could for the those three places. On those occasions where bronze fleeters do have a success it is particularly sweet, especially if it involves a good start into clear air. Finding that clear air is a particular challenge at the back as those in front generally take the best wind,

but then at the back you can watch what is happening and take advantage of a developing situation.

Having someone to chase and someone to keep behind is the racing rear fleeters appreciate. There is also the enjoyment of a superb venue, the scenery of Ullswater is particularly spectacular and the catering at the club definitely to be sampled and enjoyed. As is the

company. Sailing with friends and chatting ashore are a great deal of what sailing is about – and there was plenty of that at Ullswater.

Next year we're going to be at the Olympic venue at the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Centre. Us back fleeters on the same waters as Ben Ainsley and his fellow medal winners, something to be really looked forward to.
Gillan Gibson