



Northern Area Championship

Delph Sailing Club

14th & 15th May 2016

Report and results

Pos	Club	Sail No	Points
1	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph 3383	3
2	Jack Hopkins & Ross Southwell	Delph 3835	5
3	David & Michelle Raines	Leigh & Lowton 3740	6
4	Hannah & Nick Smith	Thornbury 3805	12
5	Louis Moulden & Eilidh Campbell	Delph 4100	13
6	Simon Evans & Chris Forrester	Delph 2772	14
7	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph 4007	17
8	Hayley Ramadhar & Zara Turtle	Shustoke 4026	19
9	Matt Donaldson & Jackie Chui	Delph 4022	25
10	Bill Oldbury & Hilary Baycroft	Delph 1954	29
11	Ashley & Mollie Southwell	Leigh & Lowton 4011	31
12	Rob & Rachael Cocking	Delph 3657	32
13	Nigel & Elisa Wilcock	Delph 1314	32
14	Brian & Sharon Worrall	Welton 4063	36
15	Rene Savelli & Deborah Massey	Delph 3414	36
16	Wendy Gaddes & David Mole	Delph 3678	43
17	Ian Brown & Patrick Glover	Delph 4098	44
18	Graham Clow & Andy Taylor	Delph 3796	44
19	Nigel & Valerie Reddicliffe	Delph 1355	45

Hopes of a good sunny weekend's sailing were not disappointed as some 18 boats were gathered at Delph Sailing Club for the "Miracle Northerns" on Saturday 14th May, when the traditional roaring conditions were but a memory and light winds in balmy sunshine were much appreciated by some!

However the fickle winds were a problem for the race organisers and a mystery to the visiting sea-sailors who found it a nightmare to read the directional changes.

Race 1 was subject to a general recall [unusual at Delph] and, with a wind-shift occurring after the recall, the line was re-aligned and a second start was successful. There was, however, a single recall for 4007, Simon Reddecliffe and Mark Atherton who then managed to chase through much of the fleet, but they had to watch David & Michelle Raines (3740) take the lead at the windward mark, followed by 3383 sailed by Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney who hotly pursued by Jack Hopkins with Ross Southwell in 3835. To the chagrin of the Race Team a carefully planned course

changed altogether as predicted reaches became beats in less than a lap with consistent light winds then so changeable that it became very hard work to realise directional benefit and it was the expert spinnaker handling crews who made best progress at the cost of much personal energy, before the original winds returned to true prediction. Jack Hopkins won the race by four seconds from David Raines with Wayne in 3rd place.

Race 2, in very similar wind conditions, called for acute observation by helms and crew alike to react for the best choice of course between each marker buoy and whilst some might call it 'luck' the lady did not change her choice by much and this time David Raines took the honours followed by Jack Hopkins and Wayne maintaining third place.

Race 3 on Sunday morning saw 19 boats vying for a good start in slightly better winds as the fleet made good for the windward mark with Jack Hopkins electing to start at the pin end finding advantage to reach the mark "B" ahead of Wayne who set off from the Committee boat end of the line. However, during the run to second mark "X", National Champion Hannah Smith somehow managed to out-sail Wayne and follow Jack towards third mark "G" where they both tracked the wrong direction around the buoy, only to realise their mistake as Wayne sailed the correct rounding and took over into leading the fleet. At that point, Wayne's earlier 3rd positioning in the event was sitting heavily on his shoulders and he was not about to relinquish a lead situation! Behind them 4007, 4100 & 3740 became a close group. The remainder of the fleet suffered a dying wind and then a fresher wind from behind to see many a change of position. Wayne and Angela worked hard to retain their lead over the finish line and were followed by Miracle Chairman Louis Moulden with crew Eilidh Campbell -- Jack Hopkins taking third place after his scramble to unwind at "G" with several other boats who unwittingly had done a follow-my-leader and altering the race process in dramatic fashion.



Photo: Steve Starbuck

Race 4. A clean start saw separate grouping at each end of the line and 4007 establishing an initial lead. However Hannah Smith in 3805 from the pin end managed to round the windward mark first followed by 4100, 3835, 3383, 3740 before 4007 and others of that group. A clear lead with no

mistakes at marks this time, but constant wind changes, enabled 3383 to overtake Jack (who lost his spinnaker pole overboard and caused his retirement), Wayne achieved first at the line followed by Simon Evans and Chris Forrester {2772}. David Raines made third position.

Race 5. All to play for! The light fluky conditions were to make a big difference! A clean start allowed 4007, 2772, 3740, 3835 and 4100 to contest the first beat, Jack managing to snatch the lead as Simon Reddecliffe pursued and established quite a significant gap from the rest of the leading pack. All the bets were on 'Hoppy' having it in hand, but never count your chickens, Wayne was not for giving up and worked Angela's socks off on spinnaker gybes down to "x" to worry Jack at the last mark of the course. The two boats were contending for inches all the way to the line with the clubhouse spectators highly excited and egging on both crews to a photo finish.

Whilst Jack is no chicken, Wayne got the race and the Cup!

By millimetres!

Nigel and Val Reddecliffe



Race 5 and the tight racing between Wayne and Jack

Photo: Steve Starbuck