

## Race reports 27th September.

### Race 1

With a similar wind direction to Sunday, although less of it, Brian Riley set the same course as for the Ramuz Trophy, which this year was sailed in the Access dinghies. The majority were right on the start line at the gun with four helms favouring the port end and Tony steaming down the line on starboard from the other end. The result was a couple of shouts of starboard a couple of bumps and some near misses before everyone sorted themselves out and headed up the beat.

The right hand side of the course seemed better as, at the windward mark (1), CJ rounded first closely followed by John, Tony and Alan were next in close order, followed by Steve and then Rhia. On the broad reach down to 5 Tony had better boat speed and managed to get past Alan, while Steve closed up on both of them. Heading back upwind to number 2 the helms took differing routes with Alan, Steve and Rhia going up the middle of the course, while CJ, John and Tony stayed on the first tack longer and went much closer to the houseboats. Neither route seemed to give any significant advantage as the places remained the same, although CJ had extended his lead by the time he rounded 2.

There followed a long run down to 6 during which Tony closed up on John but did not get close enough to pass. The reach back from 6 to 8 did not see any changes nor did the very short beat from 8 to the finish line. The finishing order was: CJ, John, Tony, Alan, Steve, Rhia.

### Race 2

The second race saw most of the helms adopting different start tactics to the first race, with four sailing down the line on starboard. Despite this all were short of the line at the gun so maybe some work on start line transits is required. (Ask next week if you want to know more). Most tacked off onto port shortly after starting with only Alan heading up the left hand side of the course. This didn't do him any harm as he and CJ reached the windward mark almost simultaneously. CJ though had the advantage of being on starboard tack so rounded ahead, closely followed by Alan and then Steve. John and Tony rounded not far behind followed by Rhia.

CJ and Alan both took a high line as they battled for first place, with Steve, Tony and Rhia taking a more direct line to 5. Despite this there were no place changes as they rounded 5 and headed to 2. Once again there were different opinions on the best route up with Alan taking the left side, CJ, Steve, John and Rhia the middle and Tony the right. The middle must have been the best option as CJ built on his lead and Steve tacked onto the layline just ahead of Alan, so as the rounded 2 CJ led from Steve with Alan close behind and John and Tony not far away, and Rhia keeping them on their toes.

Alan went high to windward of Steve on the run to 6 hoping to steal some wind and get past but Steve held his course and had the inside line around 6. With the fat lady tuning her vocal chords CJ crossed the line, Steve led past 8 but tacked to the line and the loss of speed allowed Alan, who stayed on the same tack, to cross the line only inches ahead. John was next to finish, and Tony had to keep on his toes to stay ahead of Rhia who was finishing fast.

It is interesting to note that in both races it was the first beat that pretty much determined the overall result, which shows the importance of a good start and the ability to sail upwind well. There is a saying that states that 'upwind boat speed makes you a tactical genius', something that is well worth remembering.