

Oulton Week Results

4 from 6 to count

Helm	Mon am	Mon pm	Wed am	Wed pm	Fri am	Fri pm	points	position
Tony Barkes	4	4	4	2	1	3	10	3
Alan Harmer	2	1	2	3	4	4	8	2
Pat Morling	3	2	3	4	5	2	10	4
Debbie Morton	1	3	1	1	2	x	5	1
John Page	5	5	6	5	6	1	16	5
Steve Sims	6	6	5	6	3	5	19	6



Congratulations to all participants. Not one person failed to show despite the, at times, appalling conditions. Many thanks to all shore helpers, crews, helms and supporters for the enthusiasm and cheerful co-operation all week.

Friday 26th August

First Race. Course 5P 2P 3P 7S 1P. 1 laps

Before the race we were all trying to decide what to wear because, although it had rained earlier, around 10.15 it was fine. Fortunately, we decided to err on the side of caution and donned waterproofs. As we approached the start the heavens opened and continued to pour water on us throughout the race. The start was good for all boats, especially considering the conditions. Steves's new specs meant he wasn't having double vision but screen wipers would have been useful. It was a complicated course and the wind was all over the place. Pat and Toni were the lead boats with Steve and Alan battling for 3rd place. However, Pat headed for home after 7, not realising that she had to go to 1 before finishing. Richard, watching from the bank, realised her mistake and quickly sent her out again to complete the course. This meant that Toni led Debbie over the line and Steve managed to pull in front of Alan and get his first bell of the week. Alan followed closely behind and Pat recovered sufficiently to gain 5th place with John bringing up the rear. All the extra layers that Debbie was wearing did little good and she was thoroughly chilled when we arrived on shore. The hot drinks waiting for us in the clubhouse were gratefully received.

Second Race. Course 6P 1P 7P F 2S. 1 laps, wind 0 to 3 NW

We confirmed with race officials before the start that although 2 was on the board because Access boats had only 1 round we finished after 7. This was a classic lesson about being on the start line on time. John Page made a perfect start with no one else any where near the line. By the first mark he was 50 yards ahead, so he could not be caught. There was some good racing further back with Pat Alan & Steve swapping places throughout. Sadly Steve went aground on the final leg; he managed to get off to find the wind had disappeared. The most serious race was between the crews where Avril managed to beat her Mum (was it skill or the power to weight ratio?). Debbie having won the series sat and watched with a glass of wine – very sensible!

Wednesday 24th August

First Race. Course 2P 5P 8S 3S 6S. 2 laps

Four of boats started well on the line with Debbie heading down the line towards the port end the rest at the starboard end. When they crossed tacks on the first beat both Alan and Pat crossed ahead of Debbie. It was close round the windward mark, and with Tony closing in on the next leg a good battle ensued with a number of changes of places. Gradually the fleet started to spread out with Debbie in the lead, but, with Alan not far behind, was never able to relax. Pat and Tony were never far apart, with Tony managing to get a small lead, and they were followed by Steve and John.

Despite Alan's best efforts Debbie maintained her lead to the finish, Tony was ahead of Pat but changed course shortly before finishing, which allowed Pat to get past, and she managed to claim 3rd place. Steve held his place ahead of John.

The run to the line was enlivened by some pillock in a motor cruiser going through the fleet at speed and then doing a 'U' turn and heading back towards the Wherry. One can only assume that was where he had come from!

The course was a lot more complicated than the usual Sailability ones, and the length of around an hour tested the concentration and stamina of all the competitors.

Second Race. Course 8P 7P F 5P 2PS 3S 6S. 2 laps

The start line was frantic with Lasers and Slow Handicap boats, due to start after us. All bar Steve made a good start and battled their way to the windward mark, Debbie making good headway on the east side of the Broad until John called her on starboard forcing her about, helping him to round number 8 first. There then ensued an exciting downwind race to number 7 with Alan and Debbie calling for water on John at the mark. The 2 boats obviously needed more water than John gave causing him to touch Debbie's boat. By the time he had completed his penalty turn he had gone from 1st to 5th as Pat and Toni had sneaked through too. With dozens of other boats on the course awareness of the starboard and windward boat rule was essential. The first 4 boats battled it out round the complicated course with John many boat lengths behind and Steve out of sight of the lead boats most of the time. At one point Debbie was almost forced into a passing cruiser when a single hander refused her call for water. The finish, after only 2 marks on the second lap, confused the lead boats, some of them sailing on a fair distance before they realised the race was over. First over the line was Debbie, closely followed by Toni, Alan, and Pat. John was next over the line. Steve somehow managed to totally confuse the Box, being marked on the result sheet as 1st and winning the prize money. A matter later rectified by our organiser. Sorry Steve.

Monday 22nd August

The bad news is that John Goodwin is unable to sail this week because of ill health. Best wishes from all of us for a quick recovery John.

The bent mast in number 9 was quickly replaced and the boats sailed round to WOBYC. Dave Gentry, who was to have crewed John Goodwin, took John Buckingham's place crewing Pat to enable John B to sail his Laser. I understand he was in front of Nick Asher at one stage!

First Race. Course 4P 3P 8P F 7S 1S. 2 laps. The wind was light; only 2 boats were on the start line; Pat and Debbie. The wind died completely at windward mark. Eventually Debbie picked up the wind and rounded the mark ahead of the rest of the fleet. She built up a commanding lead and maintained it to the finish. The following 3 boats jostled for position to the next mark. The race was shortened to one lap. Alan was 2nd and Pat just beat Toni by about 2 feet.

1st Debbie; 2nd Alan; 3rd Pat; 4th Toni; 5th John; 6th Steve.

2nd Race Course 7P 3P 2P 5S. 2 laps. The light wind prevailed. John Page made a good starboard start and was congratulated by a race officer. However, Debbie, who made a port start, soon took the lead again and led to number 7 closely followed by Alan and Pat. Unfortunately for her she took number 3 on starboard, had to unwind, lost her lead and didn't manage to regain it. Alan and Pat took full advantage of the mistake and finished in that order. The course was shortened at number 7. Toni was obstructed at the last mark (by a 'pug-nosed boat'; I guess it was a Mirror) and had to bear away to avoid a collision. John managed to retain his 5th place even after touching number 5 mark and doing a turn. Steve had very little luck finding the wind and valiantly brought up the rear.

1st Alan; 2nd Pat; 3rd Debbie; 4th Toni; 5th John; 6th Steve