

Seasalter Sailing Club – A Pinch of Salt – 2012 – Issue 1

The sailing season started kindly at Seasalter with light to moderate winds (force 1 to 4) and balmy March sunshine over the first few weekends, allowing a good turnout of sailors to shake off the winter cobwebs and take to the water during March and early April.

The first two fast fleet series saw plenty of competitive racing and it was good to see the spoils shared with seven different winners across the ten races.

The Sallyforth series kicked off the season and Paul Carter was fastest out of the blocks taking the first race on his Dart 18 with his father David crewing. The following three races were taken by Mark Dowling, John Long and John Bainbridge all sailing Sprint 15's. On count back, Bainbridge came out top to win his first series event over Ian Mills who finished second.

The Ace Cup again demonstrated the competitiveness of the Cat fleet – albeit with the first weekend seeing little or no wind. Mark Dowling, John Holmes and Ian Mills all secured victories on their Sprint 15's whilst Joan and Steve Willis sailed a near faultless race to secure a win on their Dart 18 in less than favourable large cat conditions. John Holmes secured the series over Ian Mills in second and Rob Smith and Caroline Pomeray third on their Dart 18.

Conversely the slow fleet was dominated by Martin Searle on his laser winning eight of the ten races held across the Sallyforth and Ace Series to secure both cups. David Lincoln and Jane Mills managed to break Searle's monopoly by winning two of the races over the first series and it is hoped the dinghy turnout improves to increase competition as we move into Spring.

April finished with a bang as SSC held its annual TT event for Sprint 15's. This was a highly successful weekend with 11 visitors and 11 home boats taking to the water over the 2 days. The four races were highly competitive with the home sailors giving a good showing of themselves in all conditions. Local favourite and current UK champion, Kevin Dutch led the charge over the two days with two victories but eventually fell short of the prize with an unfortunate disqualification in the third race putting paid to his winning aspirations. John Holmes and Dave Turnbull were the pick of the home sailors both having highly creditable results with Turnbulls best of 3rd just piping the more consistent Holmes 4th place in race 1. The changeable weather played a big part in the overall results and it was no surprise that Stuart Snell from Grafham Water, on his first visit back to Seasalter for nearly 40 years put all his experience into play to secure the overall weekend trophy with a first and two seconds. Erling Holmberg (Shanklin SC) took 2nd place by finishing no lower than 4th over the four races – a master in consistency. A special mention must also go to Roger Ackroyd from Witham SC who finished 4th in his first Sprint 15 meeting – an obvious force to be reckoned with in the future. Sailing for the weekend just finished in time for the sailors, support crews and spectators to witness a mighty thunderstorm and hail the size of garden peas - a fitting tribute to a storming weekend.



Sprint TT - A clean start



Sprint TT - Mid Fleet Beat



Sprint 15 TT - Mid fleet blow



Sprint 15 TT Overall Winner – Stuart Snell – Grafham Water