

Mini40 Club Racing Saturday 25th May

The forecast was for very light winds, mainly from the north west, perhaps increasing a little by mid-day. Not ideal for our frantic flying machines! However, eight multi's were rigged and ready for the start, including visitor Trevor Innes sailing his imported Australian foiling machine, which he built up from a kit. Right from the first race it was clear that the wind had backed toward the south west, enabling race officer Jacque Cook, ably advised by Paul Edwards, to set good first beats to buoy one.

In the early light breezes, everyone used their biggest rigs, but some boisterous squalls in the rising breeze saw a number of capsizes the late morning. Everyone changed down to second rigs, or even further as the day progressed.

Even in the lighter initial winds Mike Dann's trimaran *Fish* proved to be the boat to beat, eventually winning nine of the 12 races! Mike was using quite small delta shaped foils in the outer hulls, but his boat speed enabled them to work well. Mike also pulled off some courageous port tack starting manoeuvres.... Wow! In second place overall, Peter Fothergill, sailing Mervyn's traditional deep dagger board cat 'Doofer', won two races and was rarely out of the first three. Third overall was Lawrie Draper's cat which also showed excellent speed, with one win and several seconds and thirds. Paul Edwards was fourth overall. Other skippers who achieved top three finishes were Brian Shell, with his self-built tri, Paul's Dann-designed with his super-light cat, Tony Cleal and Rob Walley.

It was a great day's racing, with plenty of sun and enough thrills and spills to keep everyone happy.

After the racing Trevor fitted his boat up with an electric air-screw and demonstrated some very easy motor driven foiling! Our next Mini 40 racing is scheduled for Saturday the 15th June. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Mervyn