

Mini 40 Open Meeting 1st and 2nd April 2017

Fast, Fun, Fantastic

Congratulations to Christian Engelbandt of Germany who sailed his MOD 40 trimaran (tri) consistently well to win the inaugural British Mini40 Open Meeting. It is hard to beat a skipper with first or second places in eight of the twelve races! He often made spectacularly fast starts and led the A Fleet round the course. Mike Cooke racing his Rocket 3 tri chased hard and achieved second place overall with Mike Dann also racing a tri, a Ghost Train, coming third. Michael Scharmer of Germany skippered the first catamaran, a Model 102, into fourth place narrowly behind Mike Dann but in front of Robbie Nevitt sailing a tri.

The first five boats were of widely diverse types. The MOD 40 is a beautifully finished and quite moderate tri. The Rocket 3 is a very advanced design, relying on lift from the outer hull foils to keep the bows out of the water, while the Ghost Train is quite an early design which members have seen over the years in fully foiling mode. The Model 102 is a departure from the class norm, in that it is very wide, with a skeletal centre 'pod' housing the electrics and completely open to the elements! And lastly, Robbie Nevitt's simple but effective tri is home designed and built.

Many skippers experienced fleet racing for the first time in their mini40s as a seventeen strong entry was too many for a mass start. The one start line of eleven boats was very busy! There were the usual thrills, spills and entanglements, particularly during Saturday's boisterous wind conditions. Sunday proved a more frustrating day for some as the light, fickle wind came and went indiscriminately at times.

An outstanding race team, close competition throughout the fleets, many spectators and excellent catering on Friday and Saturday evening at The Hornet Services Sailing Club added up to a brilliant weekend's sailing. Not surprisingly, there have been many requests for a similar event next year.

More photographs can be found on the British Model Multi hull Association website and Face book page.

Jacque Cook PRO