

Itchenor RS200 random pairs, 2 boat team racing, Saturday 1st September

Saturday dawned bright and windless for the first (hopefully of many) Itchenor RS200 random pairs, 2 boat team racing event. With a hot crowd of sailors, including a double silver Olympic medallist who had won the Mirror nationals the week before, a plethora of university team and match racers including many champions, a collection of highly competitive sailors from a wide range of classes, 2 excellent umpires and an Olympic race committee PRO, it promised to be an excellent event if the wind played game.

In random pairs 2 boat team racing, each boat is allocated a letter. A combination of 2 boats is then randomly allocated to each team for each race. Therefore, each competitor gets the opportunity to compete with and against different people in every race. This means that anyone can get involved, whatever their team racing experience. Scoring works simply - the two boats in the winning team get given one point and at the end of the event the boat with the most points wins.

After the briefing, everyone went afloat with Cambermet recording a whole 0.1 knots. Once the 11 boats had been towed down to the committee boat 2 races were attempted, and duly abandoned. However 1pm brought a perfect, consistent 7 knots, so with a quick re-lay of the course an epic afternoon of team racing commenced.

It soon became clear that there were no real weak links (except when it became clear that Andy Shaw had decided to take himself down by leaving his bung out and trying to sink) meaning that every race was exceptionally close, making life on the finish boat incredibly tricky. Ian was obviously out for a clean sweep, and the rest of the competitors set out to break his increasingly long string of wins. Russell Peters and Ollie Sloper eventually succeeded, however no one else could break any team with Ian in it. An impressive 22 races were completed in 3 hours, with results below.

Overall the event was a huge success with only positive feedback, so we hope to rerun next year. Thanks go to Jo Lucas for scheduling the event and running the committee boat, Richard Thompson and Mark Struckett for umpiring, committee boat and rescue boat drivers and Itchenor Sailing Club for hosting the event.

Results:

Letter	Helm	Crew	Races Sailed	Races Won
A	Charlie Peacock	Kat Ward	9	2
B	Ian Walker	Suzy Peters	8	7 (1 st)

C	Russel Peters	Emily Peters	8	4
D	Mike Wigmore	Rachel Wigmore	8	3
E	Bart Bridgen	Bryony Hadett- Evans	8	4
F	Andy Shaw	Pippa Horne	9	6
G	Elliott Parsons	Hattie Marsden	8	6 (2 nd)
H	Ollie Sloper	Emma Northern	6 (RTD)	3
I	Andy Pinkham	Emma Northern II	8	3
J	Nick Blevins	Tots Boadle	8	1
K	Rob Struckett	Georgie Akin- Smith	8	5

Eddie Glennie
ISC RS200 Captain