

## **Noble Marine Cadet Class Inland Championships at Grafham Water Sailing Club 6-7 April 2012**

By Katie Shorrocks on 20 Apr

For the first big event of the Cadet race calendar the weather behaved allowing for a full set of 6 races to be completed. The fleet enjoyed some very close competitive racing and in the end only 6 points split the top four boats. Alex Corby & Robert Keen from Fisher's Green became Inland Champions by a single point from Frensham Pond SC's Matthew Shorrocks & Ryan Wilkinson. 3rd and 4th went to boats from coastal clubs with Nick Sutton & Josh Bennett (Corinthian Otter)s in 3rd and Parkstone YC's Matthew Currell & Theo Smith. In fifth place and First Girl Helm were Annie Knott & Ellie Wootton (Waldringfield SC).

The Noble Marine Sponsored Championships saw 71 entries divided into Gold, Silver and Bronze Fleets, with the Gold and Silver fleets sailing together and the Bronze Fleet starting five minutes later to allow the less experienced racers an opportunity to start on a less busy line but still enjoy proper racing.

Top Silver Fleet team were Ross & Johnny Thompson from Frensham Pond SC/Royal Lymington YC sailing 9046, followed by Alex Page & Richard Townley (Alton Water SC) in 2nd and Royal Torbay YC's Esme & Eliza Jones sailing 5966 Tumbling Dice 3rd. Winners of the Bronze Fleet were South Cerney SC's Lewis & Reece Lane in 9382, with Livi Bates & Heather Brown in 9302 and Sam Wrangmore & Toby Slump in 9208 Taz, both from Frensham Pond SC, second and third respectively.

Three races were sailed on the first day in a moderate westerly wind. Competitors were a little too keen and Race 1 finally got away at the third attempt. Alex Corby & Robert Keen in 9000 led throughout, and were never challenged by the following pack. Alex Philpott & Megan Ferguson (Frensham Pond) took second place from Matthew & Ryan in 8352. Alex Page & Richard Townley in 8521 were first Silver fleet boat.

Race 2 started under the Black Flag and was dominated by Frensham Pond teams. Matthew & Ryan lead from the windward to take the gun, followed by Jack Wilson and Jim Brooker sailing 735 and Ross & Johnny in 3rd. Four teams were caught out by the Black Flag in race 3 allowing Matthew Currell & Theo Smith to lead the fleet home. Nick & Josh were second, with Hattie Ayre & Cally Terkelsen (Stone SC) in 8420 third.

Saturday dawned with moderate winds from the North-East, giving parents and spectators onshore an excellent view of the start and finish. Race 4 was away at the second attempt. Matthew & Ryan were first to the windward, and pulled away from the fleet to record their second victory, with Nick & Josh runners-up. Race 5 saw Jack & Jim in lead at the windward but over the next two legs, Alex & Richard 8521 leapfrogged the front-runners and opened up a useful lead to take first place. Meanwhile Lewis & Reece secured another victory in the Bronze Fleet, with Harriet Sexton & Jake Thompson (Frensham Pond) second.

In the sixth (and deciding) race the Black Flag was followed by a General Recall and three teams returned ashore early. By the second windward, the lead had changed twice, but Emma & Joshua White in 9876 found their form over the final three legs to take first place. Ross & Johnny were first home of the Silver Fleet competitors, followed by Alastair & Catriona Wallace (South Cerney SC) sailing 7231. Rory Burdock & Archie MacLean (Frensham Pond) sailed a perfect race to lead the Bronze Fleet home, only to be disqualified in the Protest Room following a pre-start incident. This left Livi & Heather in first place, with Lewis & Reece second and Louis Mellor & Oliver Boosey (Frensham Pond) third in 9357.