

Flanders Regatta 30/6 -4/07/12 Report By M.Shorrock

Arriving in Flanders around 5 hours after leaving home felt great. It was good to be back as I hadn't been there since I was a crew.

Day 1 of racing began after a short and sweet opening ceremony. We launched and sailed down the channel out onto the open sea, quite a different scene after sailing at Frensham. With good racing on trapezoid courses it looked like it was going to be a good event.

Day 2 saw huge wind speeds and massive waves, and it was some of the most challenging conditions I have ever sailed in.

Day 3 was light fickle winds which made sailing through the chop very difficult however we still managed to sail 3 races. I was protested out of the middle race by BEL 8546 for tacking in his water.

Day 4 was very light winds and no races were sailed as we couldn't sail against the very strong current.

Day 5 the last day, one race was sailed in very light winds with huge swinging shifts making the cores very fluky and tricky.

The Event ended with a prize giving in the Royal Yacht Club out of the rain and thunder.

Over all it was an excellent event and i would recommend it to anyone looking to expand their sailing skills. Over the 5 days I learnt huge amounts and made some good friends, including Jef who protested me and some of the GBR Oppie team who were getting ready for their Worlds. The Cadet Worlds will be sailed here in 2013, it should be a great sailing event.