

CADETS RETURN TO THEIR SPIRITUAL HOME.

The weekend of 2nd & 3rd June saw the UKNCCA (United Kingdom National Cadet Class Association) returning to Burnham on Crouch after a long absence for the 2nd of their world team Selection events.

Feverish preparation at the RCYC meant the club was well prepared for what ended up with a total entry of 69 boats arriving for the event.

The fleet launched into a fresh easterly which meant PRO Arky ably aided by local boys Edwin Buckley & Kim Allen could lay the first days courses between the East end of the Moorings and Horse Shoal. The unfamiliar tidal conditions meant many struggled at the start ultimately resulting in the black flag being hoisted and race 1 saw no fewer than 12 boats succumbing. Once away 9000 White Stuff (Alex Corby & Robert Kean FGSC/Alton Water), Powered to the front and took the gun from 8844 Nasty Tern (Nick Sutton & Joshua Bennett Corinthian Otters) in 2nd and 8352 Master Mariner (Matthew Shorrocks & Ryan Wilkinson Frensham Pond) in third.

The bronze fleet made a sterling effort to get round the track and 9360 (Harriet Sexton & Oliver Somers Frensham Pond) won with 9208 (Samuel Wrangmore & Toby Slump Frensham Pond) in 2nd and 9005 (William Palierakis & Guy Barthram FGSC) in 3rd. There after the strengthening breeze consigned the Bronze fleet back to shore and a well deserved Hot Chocolate.

Race 2 got away clean and saw the Frensham duo of Alex Philpot and Megan Ferguson in 9390 winning with Alex & Robert 2nd and Nick & Josh 3rd.

The last race of the day saw 4 boats returning to shore early after being Black Flagged with the top slots going to the usual suspects Matt & Ryan took the gun, Alex & Robert 2nd and Nick & Josh 3rd. The results however belied the close racing with the final run often being a nail biting affair as the foul tide closed the fleet up on the last leg of the course.

Saturday evening saw an excellent Barbeque put on by the Royal Corinthian and over 100 enjoyed an great meal.

Sunday morning dawned gray & windy with a little rain thrown in for good measure and after a short postponement the decision was taken to sail the bronze fleet slightly up river of the club where the town offered a little more protection and thanks should go to Kay Tavinor for stepping into the breach as Race Officer and Katie Shorrocks for the quick organisation which meant a full day of 3 races could be completed.

The second race of the series was won by 9152 Sci-Fi (Lucy Corby & Jade McCarthy FGSC) with 9357 (Louis Mellor & Oliver Boosey Frensham Pond & Stone) 2nd and Harriet & Oliver 3rd. Race 3 saw Sam and Toby back in the frame 1st, Louis & Oliver 2nd and Lucy & Jade 3rd.

Lucy and Jade completed an excellent series to win the final race from Louis & Oliver in 2nd and 3rd place was secured by 8848 (Lucy Mallinder & Leah Redford Frensham Pond).

Excellent sailing in difficult conditions resulted in a Bronze fleet series win for Lucy & Jade on 9 points from Samuel & Toby on 11 points and Harriet & Oliver 3rd on 15 points.

Meanwhile the change in wind direction meant the Gold/Silver fleet had to sail further down river to just beyond the River Roach for Sunday's sailing.

Race 4 was won by 9875 (Will Reid & Daniel Stacey Parkstone Y.C.), Nick & Josh were 2nd and Matt & Ryan 3rd.

Now getting the hang of the testing conditions Will Davis & Harry Fitzsimmonds from Royal Lyminster in 9034 come to the fore with a win in race 5 followed by Nick & Josh 2nd and Matt & Ryan 3rd. The final race of the day saw the arrival of some of the offshore yachts returning from a North sea race and made for some great photo opportunities on the sail back to the Club house. Race 6 was won by Alex & Megan with Matt & Ryan 2nd and Will & Harry 3rd.

Clearly the location and conditions made for great competitive racing with the final outcome not being known until the last race of the day. Once ashore the scores on the doors showed that Matt & Ryan had won the event with 12 points on count back from Nick & Josh also on 12 points. 3rd was Alex & Megan with 17 points (also on count back) from Alex & Robert on 17 points. 5th was Local Boys Sam & Ben Barr who counted nothing worse than a 9th to end on 30 points from Jack Wilson & Jim Brooker in 6th on 32 points.

All in all a great weekend where a typical Burnham welcome was matched only by the great sailing conditions.

Matt Barr – RCYC Squadron Captain