

AKROTIRI SERVICES SAILING CLUB REGATTA

The weekend of 9th to 11th May saw Akrotiri Services Sailing Club host their annual sailing regatta. Sailing teams came from Episkopi and Dhekelia with a great turnout of some 20+ dinghies on the water for the first race.

Friday was meant to be the start of the regatta with a general handicap race, but wind speeds in excess of 30 knots off the airfield kept the boats ashore and Principal Race Officer, Sam Allin, sensibly rescheduled the racing for the following day.

Saturday dawned with fantastic breezes and wonderful sunshine, promising a great days sailing for all classes.

The General Handicap Race saw the Laser One fleet powering up to the first mark with Rick Pharaoh (ISYC) in the lead closely followed by Laser 2000 team of Rod Kershaw/Aleks Brown and the Cherry team of Andy and Sue. Mike Vassiliou in his Laser One chased them round the first lap.

At the finish it was still Rick in pole position but Rod and Aleks right on his transom, closely followed by the Cherry team. Nigel Keeble from ISYC, fresh from a Senior Instructor course in UK, chasing the leaders up to the finishing line.

There were three more races to fit in for the rest of the day, these were the series races for two different classes. First off were the Laser 2000 fleet with a wonderful turnout of 13 dinghies and the Laser One fleet with nine boats, making for some exciting racing in this class.

It soon became clear that Kershaw/Brown were going to dominate their fleet in the L2K's and revelled in these windy conditions. Andy and Sue chased them to the finishing line but ended up a close second on a very fast reaching leg, blasting along with gennakers flying! Chris Dodds and crew Sarah White finished very closely behind this leading group to finish in third place.

By the end of the day Rod and Aleks had secured two first places and the Cherries had one.

In the Laser One fleet, Mike Vassiliou cleaned up with three bullets and looked set to win the series. Rick Pharaoh and Colin Humphrey, all from ISYC, followed up with second and third respectively.

Sunday dawned with the promise of slightly less wind than Saturday, which gave everyone a chance to have fun and do well in the remaining races.

In the Ladies race, Sue Cherry and Sarah White in their L2K managed to stay ahead of Iris Burt and Sheila Staunton to win overall but Lorraine Miller from the host club sailed a fantastic race to finish a close third place in her Laser Radial.

Whilst the Ladies Race was taking place, the Men were sailing singlehanded in 2 man dinghies. Lee Field led the fleet to the first mark but was overhauled by Chris Dodds and Sam Allin on the first reaching leg. At the finish, it was Dodds, followed by Allin and Andy Travis coming up in third position.

Two more races remained for the series races for Laser One and L2K fleets, and the Cherry team led the L2K fleet from start to finish. Rod/Aleks were second in a close

finish with Chris Dodds/Sarah White. Mike Vassiliou again won this race, to establish a clear victory over the Laser One fleet.

The final series race for the L2K fleet was a closely fought battle with Dodds/White leading for most of the race, however Kershaw/Brown slipped through in the final few yards, and Andy and Sue managed a second place.

Overall winners were Rod/Alex, runners up the Cherry team and Dodds/White came third , all from Dhekelia Sailing Club.

Most improved sailors over the regatta were Lee Field/Ross Hayes (DSC), Richard Draper/ Peter Hammond (Akrotiri) and Ian Hopwell and Sarah Jane (Akrotiri)

Lewis Gardener and Elliot Gardener were top Novice sailors at the regatta in their Laser One dinghies, both from Episkopi Sailing Club.

All in all, this was a fantastic weekend of sailing in a variety of conditions, which all competitors enjoyed. The excellent facilities at Akrotiri were made available to visiting sailors and prizes were awarded at the end of the afternoon by Group Captain Conway.

Overall results:

Laser One Series	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Mike Vassiliou ISYC Rick Pharaoh ISYC Colin Humphrey ISYC
Laser 2000 Series	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Rod Kershaw/Aleks Brown DSC Andy Cherry/Sue Cherry DSC Chris Dodds/Sarah White DSC
General Handicap	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Rod Kershaw/Aleks Brown DSC Andy Cherry/Sue Cherry DSC Rick Pharaoh ISYC
Singlehanded	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Chris Dodds DSC Sam Allin Akrotiri SSC Andy Travis Akrotiri SSC
Ladies Race	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Sue Cherry/Sarah White DSC Iris Burt/Sheila Staunton DSC Lorraine Miller Akrotiri SSC
Top Novices	1 st 2 nd	Lewis Gardener ISYC Elliot Gardener ISYC
Most Improved	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Lee Field/Ross Hayes DSC Richard Draper/Peter Hammond Akrotiri SSC Ian Hopwell/Sarah Jane Akrotiri SSC