

June 2009

**DHEKELIA
SAILING
CLUB
NEWSLETTER**



DHEKELIA SAILING CLUB 2009
REGATTA

On Friday 29th May, Dhekelia Sailing Club began their annual sailing regatta, with a good turnout of 20 dinghies on the start line for the General Handicap Race. Held in light and rather fickle winds the Principal Race Office (Robert Higham) and his team had a tricky job in deciding the course to be sailed. Eventually the fleet started just as the wind veered some 90 degrees, causing a little frustration amongst the sailors.

Despite the problems with wind direction, the sailing was wonderful, with warm sunshine sparkling on the waters of Larnaca Bay. Mike Vassiliou from Episkopi Services Sailing Club set the pace and dominated the fleet. Following in his wake were the Cherry team of Andy and Sue in their Laser 2000, with Vassilis from Begafigo Sailing Club chasing hard to the finish line.

Saturday dawned with the usual warm sunshine and light winds, but enough breeze for the sailors. A great turnout of some 40 dinghies appeared on the start line for the first of the series events, and provided a colourful background to the annual Raft Race and Swimming event off CESSAC Beach.

The Handicap fleet with its mixed entry of dinghies saw Steve Ashford leading in the Albacore dinghy, followed by an RS Vision from ESSC and shadowed by the Laser Two from DSC. Mike Vassilou continued to lead the Laser One Fleet, with Rick Pharoah and Colin Humphrey chasing hard.

The Cherries clinched a first place, around a competitive fleet of Laser 2000's, Rod Kershaw and Aleks Brown came second in this race and Chris Dodds third.

The Junior fleet had a very close tussle and the winner of the first race was Natalie King. These youngsters had been training hard to perfect their race technique, and it showed in the way they handled their Pico Dinghies. A delighted Imogen White clinched a first place in the second race, showing just how talented a nine year old sailor can be.

The day rounded off with a Pursuit race in perfect conditions. All entries set off with times according to their boat handicaps, the Laser 13 of Pete Last was the first away followed by Stelios and Efthimios in a Wayfarer and the rest of the fleet. There was a Dart 18 setting off from the beach several minutes later, with an awful lot to do in order to catch the other boats!

Rod Kershaw ploughed through the fleet and maintained a leading position to the finish, with Rick Pharoah following in second and Chris Dodds/Sarah White third in their Laser 2000.

On Saturday night, DSC held their usual Regatta Party and a good time was had by all! Great food and Disco!

Sunday morning was a seasonal norm, with light winds from the south east building to a decent breeze throughout the day. The first races were traditionally the Ladies Race, and the Single-handed Race for men in a two-handed dinghy.

Sue Cherry made the best of the start, and powered up to the first windward buoy, leading the fleet of 7 boats. Iris Burt and Sheila Staunton second in their Albacore with Stacey Worthington close behind in her Laser. Young Imogen White in her Pico chose to join in with the Ladies and ended up beating Mum, (Sarah White) to the finish. Line honours went to Sue Cherry in the Laser.

In the Single-handed fleet a fantastic entry of 11 dinghies provided a great spectacle, 7 Laser 2000's blasting down to the finishing marker buoy, all with colourful gennakers flying, and led by Pete Hammond from ESSC. A slight error in dropping his sail at the final mark gave Pete an early morning swim and allowed John Ellerington from ASSC through to a well deserved win. In second position was Tristan also from ASSC and Mike McEwing in third.

Of the remaining 3 Series races, only two were sailed due to diminishing winds, but with very close competition in all of the fleets.

The Junior fleet saw Laura King win the third race with sister Natalie claiming overall victory in the fourth race. Imogen White took third overall.

In the General Handicap Fleet, Steve Ashford and Iris Burt were dominating the racing with three firsts and a second to win overall, but George Georgiou sailing consistently well to take second with his crew Eva Georgiou. One point behind George was Rob Featherstone in the RS Vision.

The Laser One fleet saw Rick Pharoah out with gear failure in race three, but bouncing back to win race four and with it the overall series. Colin Humphrey was a mere one point behind in second and Jonathan in third. Domination by Episkopi in this fleet.

The Laser 2000 series was won by the Cherry team followed by Rod and Aleks and in third was Chris/Sarah.

Within the main racing were other sailors competing for personal handicap prizes, and these were won by Pete and Elaine Hillyard in the L2K fleet, Pete Fowler in a Laser One from BSC, Nick Staunton and Dave Jackson from DSC won this prize in the Handicap fleet.

Other Sailing Awards went to young sailor Alexander Savva from BSC, Stelios and Petrou from DSC in their Wayfarer, and Ben Tatem also from DSC, for finishing fourth in the single-handed event.

Prizes were awarded by Dhekelia Station Commander Lt Colonel JA Menzies.

Many thanks to:

- Tricia, Helen, Lorraine, Pete and Andreas for all their hard work behind the bar
- Pete, Alan and the Safety Boat teams
- Sheila & Eileen for their work on the race desk
- Robert, Sally, Jim and Harry on the Committee Boat
- All those who provided the cakes and cookies

DIARY DATE

Saturday 4th July 2009 – Shipwreck Party!

Watch this space for more details!

Finally...

All contributions for the newsletter are welcome. Please let me have them by the 25th of the preceding month. Email: editor@dhekeliasailing.com

Rachel Gresswell