

Oulton Week update by Veronica Falat



With just one more day of Oulton Week to go, some of the series have already been wrapped up but others are reaching tight conclusions. The Mixed One Design races (contested by over 30 Waveney, Yare & Bures, BODs and Squibs on level terms) are always very competitive. Their afternoon series has now concluded with Y&B 142 'Fox' (Chris Bunn) victorious with 4 race wins and discarding a 3rd place. BOD 56 'Pipit' (Sam Cole) is 2nd, 1 point ahead of W34 'Watermint' (Graham Reeve). Their morning series has 1 more race to go and currently 'Fox' and Y&B 82 'White Ermine' (Paul Carrington) are level on points with 'Watermint' and W10 'Iris' (Simon Marfleet) tying for 3rd.

The morning Fast Handicap dinghy series has Solo 5001 'Mobisaw' (Pete Matthews) in the lead, 1 point ahead of Solo 5259 'Trick of the Tail' (Roger Wilson) with Streaker 1920 'Revenant' (Mark Langston) lying 3rd. The lunchtime Fast Handicap series also finishes tomorrow but already K1 128 'Soteria' (Duncan Madin) has secured the trophy with 4 race wins and a 2nd place. Laser 214048 'Say-Ling' is 2 points ahead of Nat. 12 3446 'Grey Matter' (Julian Hood) in the race for 2nd overall. Likewise, 'Soteria' has won the afternoon Fast Handicap series, with Streaker 1972 'Pickle' (Veronica Falat) beating 'Say-Ling' for 2nd place by a very narrow margin. So far some 30 individual dinghies have competed in these series.

Optimist 6373 'Grace Lightning' (Grace Pank) and Topaz 1290 'Ruby' (David Means) are tied at the front of the morning Slow Handicap series with Optimist 6290 (George Davies) 3rd. It will be a nail-biting finish to this series. The lunchtime series is already sorted despite there being 1 more race tomorrow; Comet 789 'Imagine' (Stephen Harvey) has been dominant with 4 race wins. 'Ruby' has gained 4 2nd places but has a bad discard so he can still be caught by RS Tera Pro 3032 'Terry'

(George Madin). In the afternoon series 'Ruby' is the winner with 'Imagine' 2nd and 'Grace Lightning' 3rd.

The River Cruisers have put on a good show with 10 boats in the fast flight and 11 in the slow. 417 'Stellar' (Tim Frary) is leading the fast fleet with 52 'Maidie' (Mike Barnes) one point ahead of 30 'Zingara' (Richie Dugdale). Meanwhile 82 'Beth' (Glynn Howarth) and 218 'Mystery' (Matt Ford) are tied at the front of the slow fleet, with 307 'Mischief' (Steve Seeney) in 3rd place. The evening series has now concluded but at the time of writing this I don't have the final results but by my calculations 'Stellar' or 'Zingara' are likely to have won and it's a three way fight for the lead of the slow fleet between 'Mystery', 300 'Matilda' (Anthony Landamore) and 314 'Whisper' (Chris Pank / Bill Bacon).

In the keelboat class races, W19 'Brandy Bottle' (Chris Schonhut) is unbeaten in the Waveney series and 'Fox' has dominated the Yare & Bures. 'Pipit' is leading the Broads ODs and 802 'Flame' (Richard Smith) is leading in the Squibs.

'Say-Ling' is well ahead in the Laser series but missed the first race and so still has to do well tomorrow. Five Norfolk Dinghies raced in the first 3 days; B52 'Periwinkle' (Michael Collins) won 5 races and discarded a 2nd. The Waveney Sailability Hansa series concludes with 2 races tomorrow; at present 'Mr T' (Vic Pennell) is leading the 8 boat fleet with 'Freedom' (Bob Waters) and 'East Point Rotary' (Anthony Barkes) in 2nd and 3rd.

The weather has been varied with blustery conditions on Sunday, very light wind on Monday morning, better on Tuesday, lovely on Wednesday and then damp and cool on Thursday morning. The forecast for Friday shows a good westerly so we should have an exciting finish to the week which ends with the Bloodbath Pursuit Race at 3.45.