

West Oxfordshire S.C. Firefly Open, 29th October 2011

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Saturday 29th October saw 11 teams, including 7 from the home Club, compete in the WOSC Firefly Open. Sailed in a pleasant force 2 south south westerly rising to a brisk force 3 to 4 in the middle of the day before dropping again for the final race, competitors enjoyed plenty of nip and tuck racing during the day. A series of three races were sailed with one discard followed by a 'must count' double points scoring 4th race.

Race 1 saw Rosie Davey and Giles Bradford round the windward mark first never to be headed and winning by a clear margin. Rosie's 2 year Firefly lay off and Giles not having sailed a Firefly since the Tenby Nationals in 2010 clearly wasn't a hindrance. The minor places were filled by Tony Thresher and Emily Herridge in 2nd who worked their way through the fleet having initially sailed to the wrong windward mark. Close behind in third were Richard Burton and Kate Hardy.

Race 2 followed a similar pattern except that behind Rosie and Giles a very close race developed between Lucy Boreham crewed by Rachel Crebbin and Richard and Kate. Lucy and Rachel eventually finished 2nd having fought off a last lap challenge from Tony and Emily who once again had to come from behind having been over the line at the start. Richard and Kate finished 4th.

Race 3 produced the closest race of the day with Tony and Emily rounding the windward mark first closely followed by Lucy and Rachel then Rosie and Giles. Rosie and Giles eventually won through finishing less than a boat length ahead of Tony and Emily with Lucy and Rachel hot on their heels.

Going into the final "must count" double points race there was still all to play for throughout the fleet. Tony and Emily could still win the meeting by finishing first and hoping Rosie and Giles finished 3rd or lower. Rounding the windward mark first it seemed Giles and Rosie were going to have it all their own way once again. However Tony and Emily managed to sneak past on the second lap at the top of the beat and went on to build a comfortable lead. Giles and Rosie were pressured by Rob and Karen Bell who were having their best race of the day but hung on for 2nd so winning the meeting on count back.

Mention must go to the juniors who made up nearly half the sailors in the fleet. Beatrix Burrows crewing for Richard Root was the first junior on the water with her brother Oliver crewed by Alex Howe winning the all junior prize from Chandara Olygunsoy and James Nicoll.

(Photos on next page, full results on final page)



Rosie and Giles lead the way, pursued by Tony and Emily



Moira and Claire enjoy the bright autumnal conditions



No room to spare at the mark



Rosie and Giles stay ahead of the chasing fleet

Pos	Helm/Crew	Sail	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	Nett
1	Rosie Davey Giles Bradford	3690	Royal Harwich YC	(1)	1	1	2=4pts	6
2	Tony Thresher Emily Herridge	2246	West Oxfordshire SC	2	(3)	2	1=2pts	6
3	Lucy Boreham Rachel Crebbin	3739	Weston SC	(4)	2	3	4=8pts	13
4	Rob Bell Karen Bell	2725	Emberton Park SC	(6)	5	5	3=6pts	16
5	Richard Burton Kate Hardy	3959	West Oxfordshire SC	3	(4)	4	5=10pts	17
6	Melanie McGregor Bridget Thurley	3957	West Oxfordshire SC	5	6	(DNS)	7=14pts	25
7	Richard Root Beatrix Burrows	3173	Hamble River SC	(8)	7	6	6=12pts	25
8	Oliver Burrows Alex Howe	3958	West Oxfordshire SC	7	(8)	7	9=18pts	32
9	Moir Thresher Claire Postbeschild	2714	West Oxfordshire SC	(9)	9	8	8=16pts	33
10	Chandara Olgunsoy James Nicholl	3966	West Oxfordshire SC	10	10	(DNS)	10=20pts	40
11	Alexander Baxter Jonathan Howe	3967	West Oxfordshire SC	11	(DNS)	DNS	DNS	50