



Helford River Sailing Club: Dinghy Race Report



Roger McDonald takes first at HRSC
Rob Gutteridge OSC nicely rounds committee.



Spring Weekend Series Sunday 1st May 2016: SW Pursuit Wind S-W 3-5

McD Cobles it Together

There's only one place to be on a manky bank holiday Sunday, and that's on the Helford river zooming around on a Laser; pitting one's self against Oxford Sailing Club veteran & Laser Grand Master, Rob Gutteridge.

Bantamweight Becky Kestin in Laser 4.7m and Rob in an immaculate British racing green Cornish Coble were first of, followed some 6 minutes later by the Laser Heavyweights in 7m rig. Becky & Rob went down the middle of the river on the long reach / run / stall to the mouth at Toll. Most of the heavyweights kept out of the tide on the North shore, but that can also mean out of the wind at Trebah - not so McD who led the pack tortuously winding in the 4.7.

Out for his first race of the season, Biggsey muscled the big rig 3 times on the beat to Trebah toing & froing with his archrival Brooks, himself enjoying all of his winters 85+ kg sloth. With all the excitement and exhaustion of the chase, on the penultimate mark at Central, Biggsey unseen, cuffed the same within less than a metre of his nemesis and threw the race away with an honest 360 penalty. 150 or more yards ahead, with seconds to spare McD piped Becky for Gold.

Now given Rob's 3rd placing in the Oxford 2015 Summer Laser Series a Coble with a Portsmouth Yardstick number of 1285 should be tested. Rob, a former Olympic trials runner up in the Tornado Class, is Customer Services Manager for UK Dinghy & Cat manufacturer Laser Performance. In a month's time, he will be taking 87 Laser dinghies out to Brazil for the Olympic games. See britishsalingteam.com to follow Laser medal contenders Nick Thompson and Alison Young.

Just in case the Lasers are shipped back to the UK, if it so happens that a couple should fall off on passing the Helford – could Rob let the HRSC Youth Laser Fleet "Donate a Laser Campaign" know – they might like to claim salvage rights.....

Result:

1st R McDonald, 2nd R Kestin, 3rd S Brooks

Captain Dinghies thanks all those in support of the fleet on the day.
Safety & Photography: C Hosken, E Hosken.

