

Report of the 3rd round of the Southern Traveller Series sailed at South Cerney SC over the weekend 3- 4 September.

A strong wind and a forecast of driving rain greeted the eight competitors who braved it to South Cerney Sailing Club in the Cotswold Water Park for the third of the four events in the Southern Traveller Series. The programme called for three races on Saturday and two on Sunday.

The Southern Travellers Series encourages entries from boats of a mixed age (as well as the crews!) and the results are determined using the RYA published PY numbers.

On Saturday the fleet of 1 Gold, 4 Silvers and 3 Classics rigged and went afloat in a strong wind just as the heavy rain started but Race Officer Dave Whittle was not to be influenced by the elements and he set a challenging course, which included two beats and a long run back down the lake. The run provided some entertainment to the spectator in the dry on the shore as it was absolutely dead down wind and approaching the gybe mark some helms and crews were seen to be struggling to get the right side of the mark without a crash gybe whilst the spinnaker was coming down – not everyone was successful!

The first race was dominated by the home boats sailed by Dean & Alison Hall (2811) who lead from the start, followed closely by Derek Harrison & Tim Greaves (3359) and Alex & Mike Tatlow (3288).



The second race followed a similar pattern but a different order with 3288 first followed by 2811 and 3359. In the third race there was a very close finish for most of the fleet, (3288) was first again followed by different boats coming through to the front with Richard Taylor and Terry Alliston (2626) second and visitors Brian Turner and Jackie Burns (3031) third.

At this point the tired and very wet crews headed for the shore and a warm shower followed by the now legendary evening supper extravaganza of multiple courses cooked and served by SCSC member Pam Weeks.

On Sunday the strong winds and rain had abated a little, and the direction had also swung slightly to the west which removed the gybe mark "entertainment". In the fourth race of the series the previously established order was repeated with 3359 first followed by 3288 and 3031. And in the final race the "usual suspects" came to the front with 3288 first, 3359 second and 2811 third.



When the overall results were calculated the winners of the 3rd round of the Southern Traveller Series were:-

1st Mike & Alex Tatlow - 3288

2nd Derek Harrison & Tim Greaves – 3359

3rd Dean & Alison Hall – 2811

1st Classic, Brian Turner & Jackie Burns – 3031

The fourth and final round of the Southern Traveller Series will be sailed at Middle Nene SC on 1st & 2nd October, when the overall winners of the Series will be decided, and the Trophies presented, on the basis of the best two results of the four events sailed.

Report by Richard Taylor

Pictures by Dave Whittle