

The National Championships – Ardleigh 1988.

One of the pleasant features of an emerging class of dinghy is that record breaking championship entries are the norm. The Streaker National Championship held over the bank holiday weekend again demonstrated this fact. Sailed at the Ardleigh Sailing Club near Colchester, an entry of 42 boats made an optimum size fleet on a reservoir shrunken by recent dry weather.

On the Saturday a force four south westerly provided excellent conditions for the first race. Ardleigh reservoir is 'L' shaped and a course was set with a long beat along the length of the water, with reaches along the shorter arm. Peter Northen made a good start followed by reigning champion Chris Cottrill. An exciting tussle developed for third place between two local helms, former champion Ian Garside and Laser sailor Colin Turner in a borrowed Streaker. These four held the front for the whole race finishing in the order Northen, Cottrill, Turner and Garside.

The wind blew up at the start of the second race; leading to a spate of capsizes before the start and a depleted entry of only 28 boats. Racing was close throughout the whole fleet with exciting battles between Northen and Cottrill for first place and Turner and Garside for third. Despite a capsize on the second lap, Cottrill eventually drew clear to take the line honours from Northen with Garside taking third place from Turner by some four lengths.

Sunday started with a light south westerly. Northen made the best start, with Cottrill in third place. As the leaders were rounding the first mark the wind suddenly rose to a high force three and veered to a shifty north westerly. The main racing was between Northen, Cottrill and Garside until Peter Hayward broke through to take first place, followed by Cottrill, Northen and Garside.

The wind rose to a high force four for the fourth race. Bob Branch pulled away into first place followed by Northen. By the middle of the first lap the leaders had settled into the familiar pattern of Northen, Cottrill and Garside. On the second lap, Cottrill moved to take the lead and drew ahead during the next lap by a clear leg. Turner had been trailing badly, in his borrowed boat shipping water, and retired on the third lap. Cottrill won convincingly followed by Northen and Garside.

By the start of the last race, the championship was still undecided. Northen needed a first place, with Cottrill third to be able to win, but disaster struck him. A bad start led to a general recall. In the last minute before the re-start, another boat forced Northen over the line, and under the racing rules he had to be disqualified.

Cottrill had taken a more cautious approach and was well behind at the start. First man away was Brian Garside, Ian's father, followed by Turner. Northen continued to sail hoping to find away to protest but found his concentration spoilt by the incident and came ashore after two laps. Cottrill again drew ahead to take first place and the championship, followed by Hayward and Brian Garside.

John McMillan (1207)

Although a record entry of 42 boats, regrettably the record cannot be officially claimed by Ardleigh as four boats failed to turn up and only 37 boats actually started racing. However it was a thoroughly enjoyable event sailed on a very pleasant water, and the many spectators watched some fantastic sailing.

The association thanks all who contributed to making the event what it was and also congratulates the prize winners.....Can we break the 50 barrier at Scaling?

STREAKER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ARDLEIGH 1988

FINAL POS.N	SAIL No.	HELM	CLUB	POINTS - RACE No.					TOTAL POINTS
				1	2	3	4	5	
1	1332	C COTTRILL	TELFORD	2	3/4	2	3/4	3/4	4 1/4
2	1325	P NORTHEN	FILEY	3/4	2	3	2	32R	7 3/4
3	2030	I GARSIDE	ARDLEIGH	4	3	4	3	32R	14
4	1293	P HAYWARD	DRAYCOTE	8	7	3/4	5	2	14 3/4
5	1321	J EDWARDS	FILEY	7	5	17	4	7	23
6	1250	C TURNER	ARDLEIGH	3	4	10	34R	8	25
7	847	C MORE	FILEY	6	38	8	8	4	26
8	1312	I WHITFIELD	FILEY	24	9	15	9	5	38
9=	1205	B GARSIDE	GREEN WITHENS	37R	12	5	20	3	40
9=	1054	S MAIN	DOWNNS	9	6	41D	14	11	40
11	1277	B BRANCH	BANBURY CROSS	5	10	23	6		44
12	1320	N SKUDDER	BEXLEY	16	8	14	7	18	45
13	1137	P SHERIDAN	CHIPSTEAD	14	18	6	10		48
14	1264	S SKUDDER	BEXLEY	11	11	26	12	16	50
15	196	D BUTLER	BLACKPOOL LC	12	33R	7	17	17	53
16	1078	B WALKLING	CHIPSTEAD	13	16	24	16	9	54
17	1255	R WILDE	GREEN WITHENS	10	13	13	19	32R	55
18	1189	G ROBINSON	SCALING DAM	19	14	25	13	10	56
19=	1084	R GARRETT	BEXLEY	37R		9	11	6	63
19=	102	A BUTTERFIELD	CHIPSTEAD	15	17	11	15	12	63
21	1021	D WRIGHT	SCALING DAM	17	21	21	18	15	71
22	1131	R WADE	GREEN WITHENS	18	15	19	21	21	73
23=	1340	S CORY	DOWNNS	20	22	41D	21	13	76
23=	1100	S LYNCH	DOWNNS	21	19	30	22	14	76
25	1313	I SIMPSON	FILEY	22	33R	12	27	20	81
26	1289	G KUHNEL	PENNINE	42D	23	22	24	23	92
27	1348	M HATELEY	BEXLEY	23	33R	36R	26	22	104
28	1290	P CROOKS	FILEY	37R		27	25	19	108
29	761	M BOYLE	PENNINE	37R	24	32	30	27	113
30=	1132	P HOWARD	PRIORY	37R	20	18			117
30=	863	K RIX	WALTON-O-T	27		34	31	25	117
30=	155	L MORE	FILEY	37R	33R	31	29	24	117
30=	1347	T LITTLE	HOVERINGHAM	37R	33R	29	32	26	120
33=	1318	N KENT	BEXLEY	25	38D	33	33	29	120
35=	1101	K HARVEY	ARDLEIGH	26	38D		34R	28	126
35=	976	R WHEELER	CHIPSTEAD	37R	33R	28	28		126
37	1207	J McMILLAN	ARDLEIGH			36R			162
38	1292	M TOMLINSON	ALTON WATER	42D					168