

The National Championships – Filey 1989.

Scaling Dam reservoir ten miles north of Whitby and with a home fleet of over 20 Streaker's was to have been the venue of the 1989 national Streaker championship. But there was a problem; shortage of water, with no sign of 'improvement'. It was therefore, decided to switch the event to Filey Sailing Club on the Yorkshire coast with one month to go.

No problems with water shortage here but there was a problem with the wind! A very light fitful easterly (with a tendency to drop) was all that Filey Bay had to offer on the Saturday August 26th. Nevertheless, the race officer got the fleet of 40 boats away promptly at 1pm. Alan Gillard led from the start and built up a substantial lead for a comfortable win. Second was defending national champion Chris Cottrill. Third, European Topper champion Andrew Norman and Fourth, Pete Northen – runner up in this event the past two years.

Alan Gillard is a newcomer to the Streaker class but no doubt the name is all too familiar to Enterprise sailors – Alan having twice won the Enterprise world championship and the nationals three times. He also has the Endeavour Trophy under his belt. However, he had to work just a little harder in the second race which was sailed back to back with the first, the start following a general recall. Alan tacked early onto port after a good start and went to the right of the course as did Cottrill whereas Northen held onto starboard tack and went left. Halfway up the first beat Alan realised that the starboard tackers were being lifted and tacked to join them while Cottrill kept on going right. Northen was first to arrive at the windward mark followed by Alan whereas Cottrill found himself down in thirteenth spot. Alan got past Northen on the reach and held on to his lead to record his second win on a shortened course with Northen second and Andrew Norman, sailing very consistently, coming in third. Cottrill worked hard in the very light going to pull himself up to fourth position.

On Sunday 27th, there was a complete contrast in the conditions with a strong Northerly – tending to increase – producing big swells and some very exciting sailing. Northern revelled in these conditions – but so too did Barrie Thornton of Scaling Dam SC – both these sailors showing excellent boat control in the tough going. Paul Nicholls of Horbury SC was also doing very well having sailed consistently to record results of eighth and seventh in Saturday's races. Alan Gillard found himself overpowered in the heavy stuff but was hanging in there though no doubt giving some hope to those just behind when he capsized on the sausage leg. The finishing order in a somewhat depleted and battered fleet was Thornton first, Northen second, Paul Nicholls third and Alan Gillard fourth.

The third race was to be the final race of the championship, the Race Committee deciding to cancel the remaining two races in view of the increasing northerly wind which was producing difficult and dangerous sea conditions. The overall results were therefore decided on three races – with all results to count.

It was to be Alan Gillard's year because he – or more accurately his father Peter – also won the Concours d'Elegance Trophy for the best looking boat at the championship.

John Edwards. (1321)

1 st Alan Gillard	Scaling Dam SC	5 ½ pts
2 nd Pete Northen	North Lincs. SC	8 pts.
3 rd Chris Cottrill	Dudley YC	11 pts.
4 th Paul Nicholls	Horbury SC	18 pts.
5 th Barrie Thornton	Scaling Dam SC	18 ¾ pts.
6 th Ian Whitfield	Filey SC	28 pts.
Under Trophy – Andrew Norman	Scaling Dam SC	
Over Trophy – Bill Norman	Scaling Dam SC	
Altogether Shield	Scaling Dam SC.	