

## Report of the 2012 Noble Marine Streaker National Championships

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June at Grafham Water SC

Report by Veronica Falat

Attached photos by Ben Falat

The weather forecasters had been warning of strong winds for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June – and they were not wrong! When planning the Noble Marine sponsored National Championships, we had not really envisaged the conditions we were met with on Saturday. The only good thing about the wind was that it was blowing offshore, so the launching was easy and it wasn't until you'd sailed a few hundred yards that you fully realised what you were in for. By the time you'd hurtled downwind to the starting area, you knew it was going to be tough!



In race 1 Ian Jones led at the first mark, just ahead of Tom Gillard and Ian Fryett, with Wendy Jones in 4<sup>th</sup> place. On the reaching legs Tom took the lead and maintained it to the finish two laps later. Alan Gillard overtook Wendy when she capsized on a beat. Meanwhile Ian Lees and Mike Hanes were catching up and both overtook Alan when he tacked round at the gybe mark and they both got away with gybing. So the top 6 finishing order was Tom, Ian Jones, Ian Fryett, Ian Lees, Mike and Alan. Wendy recovered well to take 8<sup>th</sup> place. Of the 28 starters, only 20 managed to finish, and many experienced spectacular capsizes.

There was a short break ashore before race 2. Some people had decided early on not to race that day and they were there to listen to our tales of adventure and misfortune. We were sharing the event with a Laser Masters open meeting and while we were ashore they had their first race. Funnily enough, it looked to us as if the wind had eased a bit. Sure, some lasers were capsizing, but don't they always? We convinced ourselves all would be well and so set off again – only to be hit by a huge gust on the way to the starting area!

Race 2 was again a challenge to get round the course without mishap. Ian Jones led at the first mark, with Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alan 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the gybe mark Alan was overtaken by David Bartlett. On the next beat Tom overtook Ian but they swapped positions again on the run in absolutely howling conditions – and both managed to gybe at high speed to get to the leeward mark; many of us tacked round! On the last lap Tom retook the lead and on the reaching legs managed to pull clear of Ian. So the finishing order was Tom, Ian Jones, Alan, David, Mike and Ian Lees. This time there were only 16 finishers.

The committee boat was now flying the flags to send everyone (Lasers as well as Streakers) ashore; race 3 would be postponed to the next day. We were told later that the gusts had reached up to 30 knots and that the tail-enders had contended with a gust of 39 knots!

Overnight it was still windy and there were some anxious faces on Sunday morning. However, the race officer was sure that the wind would ease and so it did. It also became extremely shifty! More boats took to the water than on the previous day and the racing was tight with lots of place changing. In Race 3 it seemed to pay to work the right hand side of the course. Tom led at the first mark, ahead of Ian Jones, with Tom Whitehead in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Alan 4<sup>th</sup>. Andy Kissick had also made a good first beat but in the shifty conditions misjudged the approach to the mark and got stuck against it. David Bartlett and Alan had a good battle for 4<sup>th</sup> place on the first reach, but Mike Hanes slipped through to leeward to round the gybe mark ahead of them both. By the time the fleet reached the leeward mark the wind had swung so much that the next beat became a fetch and the race was shortened at the end of that lap. The top 6 were Tom Gillard, Ian Jones, Tom Whitehead, Mike, Alan and Ian Lees.

There was a delay while the committee boat moved to a new position to allow for the wind change. When race 4 started the breeze was still unsteady but Alan read the shifts well to round the windward mark first. His lead was lost however when his boom touched the gybe mark and he had to do a penalty turn, allowing Ian Fryett and Tom Gillard to overtake him. Tom managed to get past Ian before the leeward mark but the next beat was again extremely one-sided. The windward mark had been shifted but the breeze had switched back! Tom and Ian were now in amongst the tail-ender Laser Radials and Ian managed to squeeze through to retake the lead which he held to the finish of the shortened course. Alan came in 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Ian Bradley 4<sup>th</sup>, Ian Jones 5<sup>th</sup> and Tom Whitehead 6<sup>th</sup>.

The final race again saw boats doing well on the right hand side of the beat. Paul Whyld had started close to the committee boat and worked that side to round the first mark with Ian Jones at the front of the fleet. The fleet was quite bunched at the end of the first lap and there were many opportunities for gains and losses in the tricky lighter conditions. Tom Gillard was working his way through the pack and got as far as 3<sup>rd</sup> by the end of the race, but Paul Whyld held his nerve to take the race win with Ian Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ian Fryett was in 4<sup>th</sup> place, and David Bartlett 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Gillard was therefore the convincing and well-deserved winner of the Championship, counting just 5 points. Ian Jones was runner up and Ian Fryett 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The number of entries was well down on last year but that weather forecast (and the wind itself!) no doubt had a lot to do with that. All things considered, the class came away happy that little gear failure had been suffered and that several of the newcomers to Streaker sailing had figured well in the results, notably Ian Fryett, David Bartlett and Paul Whyld. With at least 30 boats built since this time last year, the fleet has grown and become ever more competitive. The future is looking good!



Tom Gillard  
2012 National Champion

## Noble Marine Streaker Nationals 2012

5 races sailed, 4 to count. 37 entries.

Rank	SailNo	HelmName	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	Nett
1st	1800	Tom Gillard	Sheffield Viking SC	1	1	1	2	-3	8	5
2nd	1759	Ian Jones	Dovestone SC	2	2	2	-5	2	13	8
3rd	1803	Ian Fryett	Llandegfedd SC	3	7	-9	1	4	24	15
4th	1691	Alan Gillard	Sheffield Viking SC	6	3	5	3	(38.0 DNF)	55	17
5th	1655	Michael Hanes	Waldringfield S.C	5	5	4	9	-10	33	23
6th	1776	David Bartlett	Starcross YC	10	4	7	(38.0 DNF)	5	64	26
7th	1784	Ian Lees	Scammonden SC	4	6	-13	10	12	45	32
8th	1769	Nick Lovell	Ouse Amateur SC	7	12	6	7	-16	48	32
9th	1619	Ian Bradley	Ouse Amateur SC	13	9	10	4	-17	53	36
10th	1654	Veronica Falat	Waveney & Oulton Broad YC	12	11	8	-15	6	52	37
11th	1809	Dan Phillips	Ripon SC	9	10	-19	14	13	65	46
12th	1605	Wendy Jones	Donestone SC	8	(38.0 DNF)	27	13	7	93	55
13th	1702	Tony Wright	Durleigh SC	18	(38.0 DNF)	11	17	9	93	55
14th	1696	Frank Catt	Downs SC	11	8	18	-24	19	80	56
15th	1640	Ian Parish	Stewartby S.C	14	14	-20	18	14	80	60
16th	1734	Robert Johnston	Blackpool & Fleetwood YC	(38.0 DNF)	16	24	12	11	101	63
17th	1773	Thomas Whitehead	Welton SC	(38.0 DNF)	38.0 DNF	3	6	18	103	65
18th	1792	Stuart Hoare	West Riding SC	15	(38.0 DNF)	23	11	20	107	69
19th	1084	Steven Garrett	Bough Beech SC	(38.0 DNF)	38.0 DNF	16	8	8	108	70
20th	1683	Peter Cogill	Rotherham SC	16	13	-30	19	23	101	71
21st	1787	Paul Whyld	Seafarers SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	12	21	1	110	72
22nd	1801	Peter Tyerman	Pennine SC	19	(38.0 DNF)	15	25	21	118	80
23rd	1754	Chris Wright	Ripon SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	14	20	15	125	87
24th	1446	Matthew Whitfield	Tamworth SC	20	(38.0 DNF)	22	23	22	125	87
25th	1504	Robin Mapleston	Girton SC	17	(38.0 DNC)	17	27	28	127	89
26th	1804	Adrian Cripps	Girton SC	(38.0 DNF)	15	25	26	25	129	91

27th	1770	Chris Smith	Island Barn Reservoir SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	28	16	24	144	106
28th	1656	Richard Brook	Ripon SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	21	22	27	146	108
29th	1548	Ian Whitfield	Tamworth SC	(38.0 DNF)	38.0 DNC	29	28	26	159	121
30th	1757	Gary Hogan	Haversham SC	(38.0 DNF)	38.0 DNC	31	30	29	166	128
31st	1630	Andrew Kissick	Alderney SC	(38.0 RTD)	38.0 DNC	26	29	38.0 DNC	169	131
32nd	1735	Clive Stratton	Warsash SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	32	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	184	146
33rd	1687	Keith Patmore	Harlow(Blackwater) SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	33	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	185	147
34th	9	Alan Simmons	Lancing SC	(38.0 DNF)	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNF	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	190	152
34th	1393	Ruairidh Campbell	Clyde Cruising Club	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	190	152
34th	1723	Ian Mansfield	Alton Water Sports Centre	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	190	152
34th	1603	Jeremy Daniell	Bough Beech SC	(38.0 DNC)	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	38.0 DNC	190	152

Ist lady: Veronica Falat

1<sup>st</sup> helm over 45: Ian Fryett

Ist helm over 55: Veronica Falat

1<sup>st</sup> hem over 65: Clive Stratton

Ist in Silver Fleet: Peter Cogill

Winner of Cadzow Trophy for best presented boat: Chris Smith 1770

Winners of Altogether Trophy for top team: Ripon SC

Winner of Fifteen Transom Trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> boat over 15 years old: Matt Whitfield 1446