



Sailboat.co.uk Laser Open and National Championships: Day three

Standard by Jack Wetherell

Day three started with clear skies and a soft northerly breeze. Race Officer Ken Falcon opted to wait for the breeze to die and build from the south-westerly direction often found in Weymouth. It didn't take long and the fleet were soon afloat with racing scheduled for the harbour.

By start time the wind had been thermally enhanced and was up to 12knts. Jack Wetherell made the best start down at the pin end and tacked to cross the fleet after a couple of minutes and held the lead to the windward mark. Alistair Goodwin rounded second with Harry Gozzett close behind in third. Wetherell pulled away on the first downwind leg and these positions remained the same for the rest of the race.

In race 2, Goodwin got the best start down at the pin with Wetherell choosing to start at the starboard end. Half way up the beat, it was Goodwin leading after crossing Wetherell. But, by the first mark, Wetherell had hooked in to some better pressure at the top left and taken control of the race. Goodwin was second and Jack Hopkins sailed the shifts well to round third. Half way down the first run, the wind started to track right. This took away the left-hand gain of Portland which had made the previous race a one-way track on the outer loop. The sailors battled to stay in phase, but the wind kept tracking right. Wetherell extended his lead and, with the final run becoming a reach, no positions changed in the top three. Over the line, it was Wetherell, Goodwin and Hopkins.

Another day of champagne sailing conditions in Weymouth.

Standings after day three:

1st Jack Wetherell, 5pts

2nd Alistair Goodwin, 10pts

3rd Harry Gozzett, 16pts

Radial by Hannah Snellgrove

After an onshore wait (productively filled with the UK Laser Association AGM), the light north-westerly gradient swung around to the sea-breeze direction. The fleet launched into a building south-westerly and were greeted by glamorous sunshine and a 12–16kt breeze upon arrival at the start line at the bottom of Portland Harbour.

Conditions were similar to that of day one, but, with the course set slightly further away from Portland Bill, the left-hand track became less significant. It was overnight leader Hannah Snellgrove who led to the first windward mark having started at the Committee Boat and held across to the left, with the chasers being those who had also made it across to the left in clear wind. Snellgrove increased her lead on the downwind from Ireland's Johnny Durcan and Australia's Jeff Loosemore, and those three pulled clear from the rest of the fleet.

In the second race, a big right wind shift shortly after the start nearly caught out the front runners, but Snellgrove and Durcan, who both started at the Committee Boat end and held towards the left, managed to dig back towards the right. It was Snellgrove who led around the top mark and extended away from the rest of the field to make it six race wins from six. Behind, there was a tussle between David Saunders and Durcan, with Durcan overhauling Saunders on the final downwind to take second.

Standings after day three:

1st Hannah Snellgrove, 5pts

2nd Johnny Durcan, 15pts

3rd Benno Marstaller, 33pts

4.7

In the 4.7 fleet, Chloe Collenette continued her winning ways from yesterday by winning both of today's races. Thomas Parkhurst was second in the first race with overall leader Matt Beck in third. In race 2, Fouad Ghareeb was second and James Brosnan Wren was third.

Standings after day three:

1st Matt Beck, 9pts

2nd Daniel Wellbourn Hesp, 17pts

3rd Fouad Ghareeb, 22pts