



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

This year's Sailboat.co.uk Laser Open and National Championships are being held at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy. Yesterday was the first day of racing and competitors enjoyed champagne sailing in Portland Harbour.

Standard by Jack Wetherell

Morning conditions were overcast but with good breeze and Race Officer Ken let the 23 Laser Standard sailors know they would be racing in the harbour today. The line was set square with the breeze at 250. During the start sequence there was a left shift to 240 making the pin end of the start line favoured. Jack Wetherell and Alistair Goodwin were the first to realize and started just up from the pin end. Half way up the beat, Wetherell had pulled ahead and went on to lead around the windward Mark. Goodwin was second with Jack Hopkins in hot pursuit. On the first run, Wetherell maintained his lead whilst Hopkins did a great job moving up to second. With the outer loop being closer to Portland the left-hand side was favoured with boats benefitting from the land effect. At the top mark positions had stayed the same in the top three, but on the final downwind Goodwin managed to repass Hopkins. The race finished with Wetherell winning, Goodwin second and Hopkins third.

During the break between the races, the sun had come out to play and the skies were now clear. The line was set with some pin bias, but the pressure on the course was a lot patchier. Haydn Griffiths made the best start off the pin, but coming in to the top mark it was Wetherell once again followed by Goodwin and Hopkins. Griffiths made it round in fourth. Over the course of the race positions remained unchanged despite the unstable conditions.

Overnight standings:

1st Jack Wetherell, 2pts

2nd Alistair Goodwin, 4pts

3rd Jack Hopkins, 6pts

Radial by Hannah Snellgrove

A fresh south-westerly breeze on Sunday morning greeted the 65 Laser Radial competitors who are set to fight it out for the title of Radial National Champion over the forthcoming week at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy.

With the first two races held in the harbour and winds slightly less than forecast at a, nonetheless, healthy 10–12knts, the fleet was too eager to get away with a general recall on their first start, and the black flag then came out to play.

The boats at the pin end of the line who played the shifts up the left-hand side of the beat came out well, with reigning National Champion Hannah Snellgrove leading around the windward mark and extending around the course to the finish from Fionn Conway (Ireland) and Tom Renny.

The second race was got underway quickly in a strengthening breeze and under a slightly less scary 'I' flag, but the fleet were well behaved and started cleanly. This time the left-hand side proved to be even more favoured, with Snellgrove leading around the top mark from Ben Childerley. Some great pace from Benno Marstaller on the final downwind pulled him up to second, behind Snellgrove, with Johnny Durcan in third.

Overnight standings:

1st Hannah Snellgrove, 2pts

2nd Benno Marstaller, 6pts

3rd Fionn Conway, 9pts

4.7

The 17 competitors in the 4.7 fleet at the Sailboat.co.uk Laser Open and National Championships enjoyed some fantastic sailing in Weymouth Harbour yesterday. Both of the two races sailed had the same outcome with Matt Beck in first and Daniel Wellbourn Hesp in second. Arthur Connolly was third in the first race and Fergus Fox was third in the second.

Overnight standings:

1st Matt Beck, 2pts

2nd Daniel Wellbourn Hesp, 4pts

3rd Jessica Carter, 9pts