

# 2013 October regatta report



Tata Steel annual regatta took place over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October; this is a six race regatta with five races to count with the target time for each race being forty five minutes. Over fifty boats from a variety of classes, and different clubs took part, with the Osprey being the largest fleet with ten boats, and nine in the Vareo fleet.

The weather over the weekend was pleasantly warm with light breezes from the East which gave the Race Officers an interesting challenge in setting courses for boats ranging from B14s, to Mirrors. The race officers, Mike Hewlins and Ian Williams to their credit, managed to set windward leeward and conventional courses. They also managed separate starts for Vareo's, asymmetric handicap, Ospreys, and general handicap fleets.

Most boats were well behaved at the starts with no general recalls or black flags being used, the only incident being an attempted port flyer ( a mirror) forcing Gordon over the line in his Fireball, Gordon said, oh drat as he re-crossed the line (well not really but we couldn't print what he really said).



It was close racing within the Vareo fleet with the lead in each race changing, however J Symonds from LLandegfedd took the final honors with four wins out of the six races, Andy Davies from Tata taking second and Andy Howard from LLandegfedd taking third.

The Ospreys started last on a course that took in most of the lake and required a degree of navigation skill to avoid going wrong. Mike and

Pam Murray, showed that they had lost none of their old magic despite many years out of the class and won the first race after a close battle with Alex and Nick Willis. In the second race Ros and David Downs led at the first mark only to find themselves the wrong side of some asymmetric boats going to a different mark which allowed several boats through. This time Alex and Nick Willis went on to win with Mike and Pam second. Ros and David again led the third race, this time they managed to avoid obstacles and led until the final mark when Alex and Nick as a result of a slicker spinnaker hoist were able to get through and take the win.

An early start was planned for Sunday but racing was initially postponed awaiting the breeze to build and become steady. When racing did start it was on a much simpler, but quite small trapezoidal course. Mike and Pam found the right way round in the shifty breeze to win. Alex and Nick built up a comfortable lead in the second race of the day to win the event after a consistent set of results with a race to spare. Behind them the rest of the fleet were battling it out for second place with Ros and David Downs just beating John Roderick and Nick King. With the Willis' ashore packing their boat away the way was clear for Ros and David to win the final race.



With ladies in the first three boats and two of them helming this was a real triumph for girl power!



The windward leeward fleet was dominated by John Heissig and Nicky Griffin(Tata)Sailing a RS 400, who won all six races, second and third places were fought by Mark Williams (Llandegfedd)sailing a RS100 and Dan and Ruby Jackson (Tenby) sailing a RS200, both scoring 17 points with Mark winning on count back.

The general handicap fleet consisted of nineteen boats, racing was more widespread as one would expect but nonetheless competition for the top four places was hard fought, with a drift of concentration costing heavily on handicap.

James Coxon ( Landegfedd) sailing an International Canoe was the eventual winner.

DJ Edwards and daughter Sophie (Tata) sailing a National 12 were in second place, Robert Dangerfield and Clare Ellis (Tata) sailing a Tasar were third, and Ian Fryatt and daughter Katie sailing a National 12 were fourth. Congratulations to both Sophie and Katie whom are both juniors.



Overall this regatta was a great success, all competitors enjoying their sailing  
We at Tata would like to invite you all sailors from far and near to next year's event.

*Report by Commodore Paul Bambridge*