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Velocitek B14 National Championships Weston Sailing Club Day 3

Championships Goes Down To then Wire

Day 3 and with little wind it was going to be a tricky one for the top four boats that all had a good chance of winning. The fleet launched into a Northerly 4 – 6 knot breeze.

Race 7 and a large wind shift to the right split the fleet on the first beat, 758 (Tim Harrison/Johny Radcliffe) recovering from a bad start, having tacked off, were the first to receive it and pulled out to a comfortable lead, crossing the fleet half way up the beat. They were being chased down by Ince&Co (Mark Watts/Tim Rogers) and Blue Marine (Drew Malcolm/George Morris). Big losers on this one were Seavolution (Mark Barnes/Pete Nicholson) and Ovington (Chris Turner/Phil Eltringham). With real snakes and ladders. In the new breeze, Ince&Co pulled through on the last run to win closely followed by Blue Marine and 758. Ovington recovered to 4th and Seavolution to 8th. MJF/North Sails (Nils Jolliffe/Richie Bell) never recovered, finishing 18th and so saying goodbye to their chance of winning the event.

Going into the last race, it was now between three boats, Seavolution, Ince&Co and 758. Again with patchy breeze, those at the pin pulled away as those at the favoured committee boat end languished in little to no breeze. 758 pulled out with Blue Marine, Hydrotherapy (Dick Roe/Kate Dulieu) and Bfourbean (Tony Blackmore/Charlotte Jones). As the Race progressed Hydrotherapy pulled out a lead chased by 758, Ovington and 770 (Simon Hadley/Tristian Hutt). On the second beat the breeze became patchy with those that had gone hard right, being dumped out of the top pack. With the new breeze coming from the middle left, Seavolution who had been pulling back from fourth to last, managed to go round this pack and in doing so arrived at the windward mark in 5th. Ince&Co were still fighting for position towards the back of the fleet and this would not be their day. With the breeze fading, the R/O shortened the course at the leeward mark. 758 passed Hydrotherapy at the finish to win by the smallest of margins followed by 770 and Seavolution passing Bfourbean on the final leg.

So who had won the Nationals. In the light testing conditions, it had been the day of the lightweights and 758. Seavolution had not been firing on all cylinders. This may be down to the previous night's excesses as was the case with several others.

On arriving ashore and having done the numbers, Seavolution won the event by 2 points from 758 followed by Ince&Co. Handicap Champions were Blue Marine from Bfourbean and top Tin Mast in 13th 767 (Mark Phillips/Paul Bartlet).

The class would like to thank all those who were involved in running the event as it will be one to be remembered for the right reasons, especially the Sumo wrestling.

With a full on event ashore and afloat the fleet now head for the Tide Ride in Mid September where the B14 circus will be out in force.