

## Laser Open Report

Although the forecast was for snow, but on peeking through the bedroom curtains to see a 2-inch covering of snow on the lawn, with the snow still falling, was still a bit of a shock. But, as the Open had been planned since an October Race Committee meeting, and as Laser sailors are renowned as a resilient (or mad) bunch, a hardy group of 9 gathered ready for 3 races.



We band of brothers ....

(left to right) Tom, Brian, Harold, Dave, Wolfgang, Bill, Stuart, Mark, & Paul

The race officer had a little difficulty with the committee boat starting so it was towed out to starting line for the first race (and all the others). The wind was a reasonably steady 10 mph from the NW, so starting from half way down the lake a course was set for around most of the lake. With a clean start everyone headed to the first mark, which once rounded a group of 5 boats managed to get away from the others, these five slowly stretching their lead, until on the third lap the front 3 began to pull away even further until the finish when Dave scored the first of his two victories.

After a welcome lunch of hot Lasagne & Quiche, the second race started without any snow flurries and a different course to make sure everyone was awake. Dave was first to the windward mark closely followed by myself and then Harold and Tom. The wind was steady and the temperature had warmed up a little from the first race. Dave (naturally) started to pull away and with a wind shift that took him all the way up the lake and was virtually out of sight by the third lap. As for my race Harold was catching me, when he decided to take a slightly different course. At first I thought this was a cunning tactical manoeuvre the result of which would be revealed to me in blinding flash of realisation as demonstrated by a Grand Master Laser Sailor (this title sound a little like some wizard from a Harry Potter story). But, in fact this wizard was just sailing the wrong course and missing out a buoy! I was now faced with a moral dilemma on when (or if) I should warn Harold about this error. I decided it would be unsporting and not in the spirit of the club to tell him at the end of the race, but decided to wait until I had gained sufficient advantage, such that he could not catch me. The timing of my decision proved correct as I managed to finish ahead of Harold, but ended up being robbed (more like being mugged) for second place only a short distance from the finish line by Tom, when being headed by a vicious 90° shift, and he shot past.

The third race, with a new course started well until about half way through a vicious gust took out four boats at once, two of which subsequently retired. Tom and Dave (again) got away from the rest and had a close tussle all the way to the line, this time with Tom finishing first.

Overall the air temperature was not that cold, but the water was (as advised by those who fell in). After the vicious gust had past, the clouds cleared, the sun came out bright and clear and it nearly became warm enough for sun bathing.

Overall everyone enjoyed the day, and with thoughts turning to next year on how to get more people to join in (warm sunshine would help) it just remains to set the date, so keep your diaries free.

Lastly well done to Bill Kerlake, who having only owned a Laser for a few weeks joined in the racing and only went for a (cold) swim once.

### **Thanks to :-**

- 1) The Race officers Dave Walford & Chris Parker for setting three very good courses.
- 2) On the rescue boat, Chris Brookes.
- 3) In the press launch taking lots of pictures, Catherine Turner and presenting the prizes.
- 4) For the catering, Carol Fielding
- 5) For the loan of her Laser to Brian, Sue Stuart-Smith

### **Results Table**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Race 1</b>	<b>Race 2</b>	<b>Race 3</b>	<b>Final Position</b>
Dave Kinnerley	1	1	2	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tom French	3	2	1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Harold Grenfell	2	4	RTD	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Mark Fielding	4	3	4	4 <sup>th</sup>
Brian Beacon	7	5	3	5 <sup>th</sup>
Stuart French	8	6	5	6 <sup>th</sup>
Wolfgang Ansorge	6	7	RTD	7 <sup>th</sup>
Bill Kerlake	9	DNF	6	8 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Tarbox	5	DNS	DNS	9 <sup>th</sup>

*Mark Fielding*  
Laser Fleet Captain