

George Dale reports on how Camel Week survived the weather!

Windy conditions greeted the record entry for this year's Camel Week at Rock Sailing & Water Ski Club. Ninety-two dinghies, including 11 catamarans, and 27 Shrimpers entered for what would prove to be a rugged series and a challenge for sailors and the race officers alike.

The first race of the series for the dinghies was sailed within the estuary, while the Shrimper fleet ventured out to sea. Conditions were brisk but the eventual winners of the series in both fleets showed their mettle from the start: Glen Truswell and Olly Turner in their Merlin Rocket *Business as Usual* won the first race with Mark and Helen Dinwoodie in their Fireball *Which Way Up?* in second place. In the multihull fleet Jums Greaves with Henrietta in their Hobie 16 *Smoking Bimbo* took first place with Mike Coulson and Viki Herbert-Coulson in their Hurricane 5.9 *Erbitz* were second. Out at sea Mark and Zedda Peek in their Shrimper *Haggis* were first home with in second place Chris and Annie Creak in *Bonney*.

Conditions deteriorated on the second day leading to cancellation of all sailing and RYA Race Officer David Homer opted to sail two races back-to-back the following day. Once more, conditions were brisk leading to some exciting racing with some thrills and spills among the fleet. In the first race Alan Davies and Toby Barsley-Dale were the winners in their RS B-14 beating Glen Truswell and Olly Turner in the Merlin Rocket while in the second, there was a new winner, Chris Tilbrook in his laser Vortex. The B-14 pair took second place. In the cat fleet the Hurricane won with Jums and Henrietta second. In a very lumpy sea out in the bay, the Shrimpers bravely battled on; Race Officer for the fleet Simon Pain and his crew also battled on – against mal de mer! Chris and Annie Creak added a further two firsts to their tally and Rod Offer and Paul Harris in *Aurora*, Tim and Fiona Lunt in *Mairi Bhan* took second places respectively in the two races.

The following two day's races were abandoned because of the foul weather but on Thursday the competition was able to resume. It was decided to race the two pursuit races in the series back-to-back in what turned out to be very modest winds, favouring the non-planing boats. The winner in both was the Merlin of Glen Truswell and Olly Turner while second place was taken in both by Mike Lyons in his Blaze *Pure Fun and Magic*. For the multihull fleet, the first of the two races was won by Chris and Katherine Ryder Richardson with the Hurricane of the Coulsons in second place; the second race was won by Becky Creak with Veronica Scroggie in her trimaran *Gone with the Wind* with Hamish and Helen Leighton in their Hurricane 5.9 *Helen Mary Too* taking second.

The Shrimpers enjoyed an easier sail in the bay with the Creaks in *Bonney* taking first place in both races, *Aurora* in second place in the first race and *Haggis* second in the third.

Well-deserved overall winners of the week, and the Camel Trophy, with consistent, outstanding sailing in the dinghy fleet, were Glen Truswell and Olly Turner. In second place were Alan Davies and Toby Barsley-Dale and third was Mike Lyons.

In the multihull class, Jums Greaves and Henrietta took the first prize and the Camel Silver Salver, while in the Shrimper fleet with no fewer than five first places out of six, Chris and Annie Creak were the winners with Mark and Zedda Peek in second place.

It was a difficult week for the race officers and the patrol boat crews and their efforts were highly praised by the winners at the prizegiving.

Results: Dinghies, Camel Trophy – 1st Glen Truswell and Olly Turner, Merlin Rocket, 2nd Alan Davies and Toby Barsley-Dale, RS B-14, 3rd Mike Lyons, Blaze; Brea Buoy Cup – Glen Truswell and Olly Turner; Porthilly Cup – Alan

Davies and Toby Barsley-Dale; Gentle Jane Cup – Chris Tilbook, Laser Vortex; Renovation Trophy – Glen Truswell and Olly Turner; Commodore's Cup – Glen Truswell and Olly Turner.

Catamarans: Overall winners – 1st Jums Greaves and Henrietta, 2nd Mike and Vicki Coulson, 3rd Georgina Gwynne and Peter Williams. Dinham Trophy – Jums Greaves and Henrietta, Hobie 16; Rush High Flyer – Mike and Vicki Coulson, Hurricane 5.9; Chisholm Cup – Mike and Vicki Coulson; Camel Silver Salver – Jums Greaves and Henrietta.

Shrimpers: Overall winners – 1st Chris and Annie Creak, 2nd Mark and Zedda Peek, 3rd Rod Offer and Paul Harris. Parker Trophy – Mark and Zedda Peek; Francis Cup – Chris and Annie Creak; Red Buoy Cup – Chris and Annie Creak; John Lees Memorial Trophy – Chris and Annie Creak; Cibie Cup - George Dibben and Hilary Bates; St Minver Cup – George Dibben and Hilary Bates