

North West Norfolk Week 2024 – Saturday 20th, Snettisham Beach SC

The first day of Norfolk Week began with a brisk amount of wind at around 12-14 knots. The fleet launched at half 4 and reached towards the start line. After the N12s had left, the Allcomers fleet set off. Most decided to remain on starboard tack, with only Jack Gore (Streaker 1734) tacking off straight away, opting for clear air. One catamaran was over the line and had to return before continuing on its way. RS700s reached the windward first, followed by Sam Davy in his RS300. A gaggle of Lasers followed, led by Richard Major, with George Finch just a few boat lengths back. It was a screaming reach before a gybe mark, where sadly Laser no217845? was caught out by a gust and capsized. After the gybe mark, the fleet were faced by a run. The next lap was very similar, where battles ensued between boats. The race was then shortened for Streaker 1734 and all boats behind. During the 3rd lap, the wind began to die, which would set a precedent for the next race. Andy Bayliss took the win for the first race in his Laser 2000, with Colin Dacey in 2nd and Ian Nolan in 3rd, both in RS700s.

The second race was much lighter, and the start line was more competitive, as boats jostled for position. More boats tacked off onto port than in the first race, including the RS200 of Hugh and Anna Jones. The course was a simple sausage compared to the triangle course of the first race. Keeping the boat moving was essential on the beat, due to the ever dying wind, and gaps between boats were smaller. George Finch banged the left hand corner and was first to round the windward mark of the slower boats. On the run back, the Laser 2000s and RS200 sailed an Asymmetric course, gybing down toward the leeward mark. The course was shortened again for the last few boats as the wind continued to die. George Finch won race 2, with Sam Davey (RS300) in second and Andy Bayliss in 3rd (Laser 2000).

--Jack Gore, with contributions from George Finch

(Racing cancelled on Day 2, 21st, due to very light winds – 0.9 knots!)