



Frostbite Round 1 January 2014

For many of a nautical inclination, the winter months mean short days, poor light and little else to do but maintenance and repair. One could argue that perhaps this is especially so for the coastal sailors often hampered by the equinoctial type storms associated with the season and compounded by rough seas and strong onshore winds, which invariably consigns many to home and hearth. But thanks to the emergence of special winter championships like the New Quay Yacht Club Frostbite series, the line between the winter break and main sailing season has become a blurred one. The New Quay frostbite series consists of 6 days of racing spread between mid- January and March, a time mostly associated with cold weather. Ironically over recent years the series has often been blessed with fine weather, a trend that seems to have once again been indicated during the first round of the 2014 series held on the 19th of January. Three intrepid crews set forth from the Mariners to show their support to round one of the series, complemented by further members who kindly lent their support to the safety boat provision.



As mentioned crews were treated to a surprisingly bright day and not unpleasant temperatures considering the time of year, if a little hampered with temperamental winds that remained fickle. The day consisted of two 45 minutes races back to back and was supported by some 12 boats sporting a host of classes and experience levels.

The Mariners crews consisted of Fraser and daughter Caitlin in their 420 and Liz teaming up once again with Gemma Gill in the Laser 4000, and finally Dominic sailing his Laser Vortex Asymmetric for the very first time.



Race 1 start was a little delayed due the fickle winds and consequential mark moving, this gave Dominic, the last of the crews to leave the beach, a chance to make the start line after delays rigging his boat for only the second time. Race 1 underway and the crews settled in for some interesting sailing, made just that little bit more challenging by shifting winds. The race also proved an immediate challenge for Dominic for different reasons as he struggled to get

to grips with the new boat, and not surprisingly taking an early swim when caught out by a gust. This seemed to be a trend for him with capsizes and full inversions aplenty, whereupon he abandoned any pretence of racing and just spent the time getting used to the boat.

Other Crews fared far better and while Liz and Gemma had their work cut out sailing the large Laser 4000 they were quickly getting to grips with it to start posting some promising lap times ending both races with a 9th and 8th respectively.



Others like Fraser and Caitlin in their 420 (Great Scott) proved once again to be the dark horse, quietly chipping away at the competition and working extremely well as a team achieving a 3rd and a 4th respectively and proving the best of the Mariners contingent on the day.



The Crews enjoyed a great day's sailing and repaired to the Crow's nest at the host club for warming soup, cakes and various goodies. Organisers, Support and Safety crews were once again the toast of the day without whom the racing simply could not happen. The Mariners would like once again to extend sincere thanks to our friends as New Quay Yacht club for a warm welcome and a great days sailing as ever.

Sunday the 2nd of February sees round 2 of the series at New Quay and promises to be yet another challenging experience for crews.

Tresaith Mariners Sailing Club