

Draycote Water Sailing Club Flying Fifteen Open Meeting 20th/21st May 2006

Fifteen boats entered the Draycote Open on the weekend of the 20th/21st May, less than usual perhaps due to the weather forecast. The fleet was greeted by a cold and damp day, with the south westerly wind a constant force 4 gusting force 5.

The first race, which proved to be the windiest, got away to a clean start, with the fleet splitting on both sides of the beat. First to the windward mark, from the starboard side of the course, was Rupert Mander, crewed by Paul Busby, closely followed by Simon Patterson & Simon Thompson from the port side. These two proceeded to sail away from the fleet, but were closely matched, Rupert leading to the last windward mark. Simon managed to take the lead on the final run, taking the winning gun, followed by Rupert. Keith Snow & Geoff Huett took 3rd place. Further down the fleet FF 797, Graham Randall & Chris Smith and FF 2523 Bob Falconer & Rosie Winkle enjoyed a close race with FF 797 just beating FF 2523 to the finish line.

The second race saw the wind moderate, but the rain persisted. Again the fleet got away to a clean start. This time Rupert made sure of a victory, by leading from start to finish. Simon Patterson was second and Rodger Webb & Kevin Holliday finished third.

Sunday dawned, still raining, but the wind had moderated to a south easterly force 3. The third race again started cleanly with Rupert crewed by his father John Mander. Rupert soon forced himself to the front, however, Simon Patterson got away to a poor start. Graham Randall, in FF 797, sailed an excellent race holding second place throughout the race and holding off a charging Simon Patterson to the finish. Richard Hope & Pete Gough had shown well in this race until a broken main outhaul forced an early retirement.

After lunch, race four saw the wind freshening to a force 4, again a clean start from the fleet, with Rupert Mander and Simon Patterson establishing themselves at the head of the fleet. This was a very closely fought race with tacking duels on the beats, Rupert managed another win. Richard Hope & Pete Gough came through to take third.

One or two of the fleet decided not to contest the last race for various reasons, notably Rupert Mander and Graham Randall. A clean start saw Simon Patterson lead at the windward mark, closely pursued by Rodger Webb, Chris Avery and Matt Isherwood. Chris Avery took the lead on the first run, to be finally overhauled by Simon Patterson on the last lap. The finishing positions being Simon Patterson, Chris Avery and Rodger Webb.

A big thank you goes out to Race Officer Mike Burgoine and his team and Bob Cragg for getting the booze (A job he relishes).

Final Positions:

1 st	3779	Rupert Mander & Paul Busby/ John Mander	D.W.S.C
2 nd	3795	Simon Patterson & Simon Thompson	D.W.S.C
3 rd	3712	Keith Snow & Geoff Huett	D.W.S.C

Silver Fleet:

	3083	Brian Glover & Bill Bennett	D.W.S.C
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Vintage, Classic and Millennium Trophy (first boat under 3000)

	797	Graham Randall & Chris Smith	D.W.S.C
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First Visitor:

	2523	Bob Falconer & Rosie Winkle	Broxbourne
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Report by Chris Avery, Fleet Captain