



INTERNATIONAL OK DINGHY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BRIXHAM YACHT CLUB 2018



Final day of the 2018 OK Dinghy National Championship—a day of attrition

Even three days of ‘after racing pasties and pints’, generously provided by our sponsors *HD Sails*, *Birmingham Marine Services* and *Ceilidh Masts*, were not enough to pile on the pounds for the lighter-weight helms as the wind initially gusted to 33 knots. Just 16 intrepid souls launched into the white horses in Tor Bay. The four lap course for race 7 saw just 12 finish, amongst them our two under-18 year olds. Did you gybe? ‘Oh yes’ said Hugo, ‘I waited until I was going really fast down a wave and flipped the boom’ – textbook stuff, but how many practise that manoeuvre and complete it in such conditions without a capsize! Charlie Cumbley won the race comfortably with Dave Bourne second and Anthony Osman excelling in these conditions with a 3rd place. Race 8 was just as challenging. With just 7 points accrued in the 8 race championship, Charlie decided to call it a day, leaving the field wide open for a new name to appear on the race 8 trophy. It was Fergus Barnham who stormed into the lead to win from Dave Bourne, whose 2nd overall place was not in contention. With that win, Fergus claimed 3rd overall, being on equal points with our new Junior champion Will Heritage who had to settle for 4th, a very creditable performance, having bought the hull in the winter, rebuilt it and started sailing in the spring. Why did you choose an OK? Will’s response ‘I wanted to prove my skills as a single hander, having spent much of my time in Etchells and Dragons crewing for some famous names.’ 1976 National Champion, Chris Rhodes has returned to the OK fleet making his mark by coming 10th overall. Once again, we welcomed Joost Rommelaere from Belgium who claimed the overseas prize. A large number of members appeared at the Nationals for the first time: our Juniors Will Heritage and Hugo



Will Heritage wins the Junior Trophy at his first OK Dinghy Nationals

Burrows, Steve Cooke fresh from the Hornet Nationals joined our fleet, thoroughly enjoying the racing and the on-shore camaraderie. Hugh Myers has sailed in numerous National Championships—but never in an OK, another of his bucket list ticked off! Vanessa Weedon-Jones took advantage of the free entry offered to the lady who borrowed the demo boat. Her results improved as she became more familiar with its characteristics—especially downwind! We look forward to seeing her shortly in her own boat—welcome Vanessa! Andrew Boxer, new to sailing OKs at Cookham Reach, was persuaded to join our two members from Upper Thames Phil Benton and Piotr Przewozny at the Nationals. The first time sailing on the sea, Andrew found the experience exhilarating, winning the Endeavour Trophy in recognition of his perseverance. Photos of the racing can be seen at boatographic.co.uk



National Champion Charlie Cumbley with the trophy, an Ovington dry robe and the Marigolds (not chips) for cleaning the trophies!



Dave Bourne, runner up with the International Paints Trophy

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Results: Charlie Cumbley National Champion, 2nd Dave Bourne, 3rd Fergus Barnham, 4th Will Heritage and Junior Champion, 5th Ian Hopwood, 6th Anthony Osman, 7th Tony Woods and Veteran Champion, 8th Keith Byers and Masters Champion, 9th Nick Logan, 10th Chris Rhodes, 13th Hugo Burrows winner of Mark Williams Trophy, 17th Karen Robertson and Lady Champion, 18th Andy Osman winner of the Vintage boat trophy, 19th Joost Rommelaere BEL 248 Overseas winner, 29th Andrew Boxer winner of the Endeavour Trophy. The team prize was won by Parkstone Yacht Club members Anthony Osman, Andy Osman and Mary Reddyhoff. The full results list is on the website.

At the prize giving, sponsors *Ovington Boats* and *Harken* provided the goodies to accompany the trophies. We are indebted to them for their continued support of the OK Dinghy in the UK. Many of the competitors were seen to leave the prize giving proudly wearing *Ovington Boats* branded caps and hats and clutching *Harken* Speed Polish, determined to return to the Nationals next year, to be held in Abersoch, with faster boats and fitter bodies.

The National Championship is not only about the sailing, once ashore we met in the yacht club bar to swap stories, meet partners and new-comers and enjoy the excellent hospitality of Brixham Yacht Club. As usual Tim O'Leary led the singing and Sue and Keith Byers provided some of the games in which we competed against the National 12 fleet.

Hugo and Will outplayed by the National 12s in Twister



Burt dropped by to assist Will in a game of draughts



Tim and Tony master Triominoes



Keith and Tony show a steady hand at Jenga



Of course, there has to be some silliness as well—the Dick of the Day award saw Dave, Fergus and Hugh all posing in the yellow suit. I am far too polite to mention the causes!



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