

Sailing 14 September

Spring Series flight 1:

12 Members sailed the start of the Spring Series in a fresh, but cold, wind.



Bill winning the divisional race.

Geoff, aided by David, set a figure 8 course that ensured windward legs while the wind shifted. Race wins went to Harry, David, Geoff with 2, Richard and Bill. Overall, Geoff had the best results of the day with 10 points.

Thanks to Geoff, John, Neil, David, Ivan and Richard for refereeing.

An informal race afterwards was also won by Geoff.

I have acquired a weather station that records samples of wind, gust strength, direction, temperature and humidity. I set this up to monitor the wind during the racing and attach a graph showing the wind average over each 5 minute sample and the max gust during that 5 minute. The direction was between SE and SW. Perhaps I can add this to the graph, too.

Match Racing Cup:



David and Ivan once again were at the pond at the same time with good conditions and so they had another race in the Match Racing Cup final from last year. They had agreed that if there was weed caught by either than they would abandon and resail. As usual David did catch some weed while leading and soon fell behind. Abandoned



and restarted the two were very close at the top mark but Ivan eased ahead and took the 6th race.

Scores so far in 'Best of 9':

David 2 wins
 Ivan 4 wins

With the final Aggregate Match Racing Series in 3 weeks time finding a new challenger for this Cup then David or Ivan will only hold the cup for a short time before they have to defend it.

Members:

Kevin Whitehead has returned after a long absence from sailing.

Terry and Ruth are back from the UK with tales of rain and very little sun, probably much like it has been here, then.

Other News:

They have started doing something about the fountains. They seem to have nearly got their truck bogged down by sinking into the sodden ground, but they did lay out the pipes that they will be putting into the trenches when they can get them dug.

Ducklings are about. Broods of six and nine were seen, though these have now reduced to 3 and 4. Eels, too, have been seen, two fairly large ones. I was feeding the birds after sailing in the eastern channel and an eel took a duckling in front of us. Being shallow, I did grab the eel twice but was unable to hold onto it.

Several Paradise Shelducks have taken up residence in the park, it's been a while since we last had some.

State of the Pond:

I have tested the pond water again so that I have a record of the state of the pond prior to the trenching and associated emptying and refilling from the estuary. I also used the grapnel to drag the bottom looking for the start of weed growth. Often the weed will start to flower in september but I only found a small amount of weak weed. It may be because there is not much nutrient or that the water is almost completely salt-free after so much rainfall. Or just that the temperature hasn't risen sufficiently.

Next Week:

The Spring Series continues.

Photos:

- 1) David and Ivan sail a Match Race.
- 2) Some of the fleet led by Geoff.
- 3) Bill winning the divisional race.

