

Welsh Laser Championships - Penarth Yacht Club - 30th June and 1st July 2012

Helm Name	Sail Number	Class	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Total	Net
Tom Piggott	201360	Standard	3	1	1	1				3
Barney Proctor	150789	Standard	1	3	2	DNS				6
Aran Pitter	197748	Standard	2	2	3	DNS				7
Guy Pearson	192541	Standard	DNF	DNF	DNS	DNS				20
Fraser Woodley	173611	Radial	4	2	1	1				4
Russell Woodley	191800	Radial	DNS	3	2	3				8
Matthew Whitfield	159541	Radial	2	1	DNF	DNS				8
Joe Woodley	165292	Radial	6	4	3	2				9
David Payne	197306	Radial	1	DNS	DNS	DNS				21
Anne Whitfield	191800	Radial	3	DNS	DNS	DNS				23
Tom Pain	197306	Radial	5	DNS	DNS	DNS				25
Ben Sibert	166390	Radial	DNF	DNF	DNS	DNS				25
Chris Proctor	199960	Radial	DNF	DNS	DNS	DNS				29
Chelsea Jackson	153740	4.7	1	1	2	1				3
Emily Roberts	165288	4.7	2	2	1	2				5

The 2012 Welsh Laser Championships were held at Penarth Yacht Club, on the Bristol Channel over the weekend of 30th June and 1st July. This stretch of water is challenging at the best of times, but with F5 -6 SW winds greeting competitors on Saturday morning, it was always going to be testing for the competitors. Unfortunately the conditions kept numbers low and meant that two of the six races had to be cancelled. Nevertheless a total of fifteen sailors braved the conditions and competed in their respective classes.

The race officer set the course a mile off Cardiff foreshore on Saturday, to avoid gusty conditions under the cliffs. With winds peaking at 30 knots and 2 metre short seas, conditions were extremely difficult and a number of sailors experienced equipment breakages before the start. Nevertheless, the first race got underway on schedule after a general recall. Keen not to be disqualified, competitors were much more reserved on the second start with Barney Proctor, David Payne and Chelsea Jackson accelerating in front of the rest of the fleet. They maintained their positions for the duration to achieve maximum points in each of their respective classes. With the committee boat unable to hold position at anchor and with worsening conditions imminent,

the race officer Steve Berry cancelled the remaining sailing for the day. With hopes of better conditions on Sunday and thoughts of scheduling all the outstanding races on the one day, competitors sailed back to shore.

Conditions on the Sunday were much the same, so it was decided to run an inshore course using the Jeanneau for committee boat. Again a number of competitors having sailed out to the race course, decided to return to the beach. However the first race started on schedule and after much jostling on the start line, Tom Piggott accelerated away to take and maintain the lead. Behind him a number of standard and radial lasers battled for subsequent placings, with Matthew Whitfield displaying excellent tactics to finish behind Tom and in first radial position. Once again Chelsea sailed an excellent race to finish well ahead of many radials and in first place for the 4.7's. Race 3 was closely fought at the front, again with the radials making the most of the conditions and battling at the front of the fleet. The leader Matthew Whitfield succumbed to equipment failure with only a short leg to the finish line, when his mast snapped. With no time to return to the beach and replace the mast, this effectively put Matthew out of the competition. Tom Piggott maintained his form taking this race and the last one of the day.

Results

Standard (1) Tom Piggott (2) Barney Proctor (3) Aran Pitter

Radial (1) Fraser Woodley (2) Russell Woodley (3) Matthew Whitfield

4.7 (1) Chelsea Jackson (2) Emily Roberts

If any clubs would like to host this event in 2013, please contact Aran Pitter 07789 002057 aran.pitter@itpie.co.uk