

# UK Laser Association

Autumn Qualifier – Newhaven – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September

## Radial Report by Alison Young

Sunny skies greeted the 89 competitors who made the trip to Newhaven and Seaford for the first autumn qualifier of the year. Saturday saw 3 races held in a strengthening W to SW breeze of 12 to 16 knots. With the wind against the tide it created some steep waves which made for some exhilarating downwind legs and a physical day. The competitors were split into 4 flights, racing in a round robin format.

The first race, held in the lightest breeze of the day saw the competitors sailing a triangle-sausage-triangle course. In the first flight Andrea Brewster led around the windward mark and continued to extend her lead by sailing the shifts well. She was followed home by Marit Bouwmeester of the Netherlands and Charlotte Dobson. In the second flight Max Robinson led around the windward mark but was passed by Ali Young and Jon Emmett by the end of the first lap. David Jessop then took the lead up the next beat before being passed by Young on the last beat with Emmett holding on to 3<sup>rd</sup>.

For the second race the breeze had strengthened and the waves increased. Elliot Hanson led the first flight around the windward mark but a brief capsize at the gybe mark let Jessop and John Booth through. These two battled each other for the lead allowing Young to catch up. A right shift at the top of the last beat allowed Young to take the lead as the others overstood with Booth passing Jessop for 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the second flight Emmett took the win with Brestwer battling with Bouwmeester for second.

The last race of the day saw some tired faces. In the first flight Booth led around the windward mark but was chased by Bouwmeester who took the lead at the end of the lap. She was eventually overhauled by Young who took her third win of the day, with Bouwmeester securing 2<sup>nd</sup> from Booth. In the second flight Emmett took his second win of the day with Dobson fighting off Jack Wetherell for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sunday dawned with dull skies and little wind and the fleet were forced to wait ashore for it to fill in. The fleet eventually got afloat at about 1330 and were greeted by 8-10 kts from the SW. In the gold fleet the leaders were those who had worked the left. Tom Britz led around the windward mark and built up a good lead. Cameron Douglas and Emmett gained on him but he took the lead on the final run with Douglas 2<sup>nd</sup> and Emmett 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the silver fleet the lead two boats headed off for an extra lap before realising the course had been shortened which saw David Grant forfeit his lead to Ben Robinson with Ben Dancer leading the rest of the fleet home. The Race Officer tried to get a second race underway but after a general recall the cut off time of 1500 had past and no further racing could take place. This meant Young took overall honours with Emmett second and Dobson third.

The fleet owes a huge thanks to the shore crew who made sure the fleet could recover and launch safely, especially on the Saturday when there was a sizeable shore break.

### Overall Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	Ali Young	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jon Emmett	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Andrea Brewster
4 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Dobson	5 <sup>th</sup>	Marit Bouwmeester	1 <sup>st</sup> Junior	Jack Wetherell