

UK Laser Association

A record 52 full rig Lasers competed for the Jan Werner memorial trophy at the 2010 Queen Mary Laser Open, making this easily the best attended Laser UK club regatta this year. The club welcomed Lasers from Weir Wood, Grafham Water and an impressive team of 11 from Wembley SC. The event even had an international entry with Ronan Kenneally travelling from County Cork for an event which is fast becoming a cornerstone of the UKLA calendar.

With beautiful spring sunshine, but almost no breeze, it appeared that RO Martin Pride would have his work cut out. After a short postponement however, the wind arrived from the south and a steady (but shifty) 8-10 knots settled in for the day. The starting line competition was frankly no different to a UK Laser qualifier and RO Pride was quick to bring the black flag into use in an attempt to get the fleet away.

Local Master Tim Law made the early running, pursued aggressively by Orlando Gledhill in a bid to retain his title from 2009. Both sailors are showing excellent recent form and will no doubt be at the sharp end of the fleet at the Masters Worlds later this year. Law held out for the win, with the pair being followed home by Irishman Kenneally. The top 10 were flooded by QM sailors (many of them Laser masters) reflecting the growing powerhouse of Laser sailing that this West London club is fast becoming.

The capricious winds continued into race 2 and after a tight first beat, the returning Michael Hicks showed that absence makes the boat go faster as he emerged at the front of the fleet. Hicks is somewhat of a local legend given his incredible ability on the reaching legs and he used this to great effect on the first lap to open up a lead which would not be caught. Behind him, a pack of QM regulars jostled for position with 17 year old national youth squad sailor George Spedding taking 2nd place.

With everything to play for, race three was a tight affair, with 2006 QM Open Champion Tony Adams fighting his way to the gun in continually shifting conditions. The breeze had picked up a little, and the offwind legs began to get interesting with boats in packs of up to a dozen arriving at some marks. Had someone been screaming hysterically for water in Spanish, it would have appeared as if the Laser Worlds had arrived in Sunbury. Upwind, getting a tack wrong could mean losing up to 5 places instantly, so paying attention to the boats around you was paramount. Gledhill was in the right place to follow the leader home in second, but notably Tim Law was still hanging in there with a third place. Behind them Nedyalkov of Bulgaria and Michael Hicks also had top 6 finishes, meaning they were all in contention for the title going into the final race.

The last race of the day had a sting in the tail for some, with a hefty shift 2/3 the way up the beat, but local sailor Mark Barnes was on hand to capitalize and get around in first place. Having scored a 44th earlier in the day, Barnes wasn't about to relax and did everything right to win the final regatta race for the second year in succession. QM class captain Dave Freeman had another strong race to take 2nd and salvage a very impressive regatta. The real battle was going on between Law and Gledhill for the title however. With 2 points separating them going into the race they were snapping at heels across the top 10 throughout the race, with Gledhill 6th and Law 8th over the finish line, meaning they were equal on gross points. With the bigger discard however, the result was enough to give Law outright victory. Freeman was highly relieved to finish third overall, discarding a 29th place from race 3. The top 10 placings were dominated by Queen Mary sailors, with Chris Ellyat, Tony Adams, Val Nedyalkov, Michael Hicks and George Spedding filling the places behind the podium.

A sweet moment for Law then, who has been contesting this regatta for something like 36 years without success. There was a poignant moment at the prizegiving when the sailors remembered Jan Werner, a former member of the Laser fleet at QM who was tragically killed a few years back, and to whom the trophy of this regatta is awarded in honour.

Overall Results:

Pos	Helm	Club	Sail No	R1	R2	R3	R4	Pts
1	Law, Tim	QueenMary SC	195867	1	4	3	8	8
2	Gledhill, Orlando	QueenMary SC	192654	2	6	2	6	10
3	Freeman, Dave	QueenMary SC	195866	6	5	29	2	13
4	Ellyat, Chris	QueenMary SC	195845	5	25	6	3	14
5	Adams, Tony	QueenMary SC	179608	9	16	1	7	17
6	Nedjalkov, Valentin	QueenMary SC	180278	4	11	5	20	20
7	Hicks, Michael	QueenMary SC	188578	15	1	8	12	21
8	Spedding, George	QueenMary SC	190846	20	2	10	13	25
9	Omasta, Andy	Aldenham	197773	10	7	12	11	28
10	Francis, Daniel	Papercourt SC	186042	19	22	7	4	30
11	Henderson, Will	QueenMary SC	172589	8	12	11	22	31
12	Kenneally, Ronan	Monkstown Bay SC	182601	3	9	26	23	35
13	Hancock, Julia	QueenMary SC	186375	11	34	19	5	35
14	Barnes, Mark	QueenMary SC	195978	23	44	13	1	37
15	O'Gorman, Roger	QueenMary SC	195108	18	32	9	15	42
16	Sancken, Mark	QueenMary SC	197600	13	15	14	26	42
17	Harding, Harry	QueenMary SC	185703	34	8	18	18	44
18	Bullock, Gary	N/A	194658	7	19	22	19	45
19	Martin, Niall	Wembley SC	179947	14	30	17	17	48
20	Weekes, Thomas	Maidenhead SC	189093	26	24	16	10	50
21	Cook, Rob	Grafham Water SC	195109	29	20	15	16	51
22	Yankov, Mihail	QueenMary SC	86712	33	21	20	21	62
23	De Souza, Peter	QueenMary SC	185700	28	33	4	31	63
24	Wells, John	Ely SC	186244	24	38	35	9	68
25	Curran, John	Wembley SC	196556	35	10	(DSQ)	25	70
26	Pears, Steve	QueenMary SC	195742	17	3	(DNC)	(DNC)	72
27	Homes, David	QueenMary SC	180339	16	27	30	30	73
28	Hamment, Peter	Papercourt SC	189607	41	29	34	14	77
29	Bedell, Rupert	QueenMary SC	185730	27	26	24	27	77
30	Metcalfe, Steve	QueenMary SC	183101	30	37	21	28	79
31	Stean, Bill	Weirwood SC	189509	25	28	27	32	80
32	Giles, David	Weirwood SC	197458	12	17	(DNC)	(DNC)	81
33	Lindley, Steve	Wembley SC	196555	36	23	32	29	84
34	Tindall, Tom	Wembley SC	137418	31	31	33	24	86

35	Bates, David	QueenMary SC	188534	44	14	36	37	87
36	Oddy, Mike	Wembley SC	191849	22	18	(DNC)	(DNC)	92
37	Bates, Paul	QueenMary SC	183165	42	13	42	42	97
38	Cic, Joe	Wembley SC	143513	38	41	23	36	97
39	Boyce, Andrew	Papercourt SC	182546	39	35	25	(DNC)	99
40	Young, Peter	QueenMary SC	3	21	49	41	38	100
41	Key, Tom	Papercourt SC	164925	40	39	28	34	101
42	Elwood, Adrian	Wembley SC	186043	32	42	37	33	102
43	Greenstreet, Mark	Wembley SC	196553	47	36	31	39	106
44	Fyans, Chris	Weirwood SC	195144	45	40	39	35	114
45	Hawkins, Nick	Weirwood SC	151436	46	43	38	40	121
46	Bickell, John	QueenMary SC	5	43	50	44	41	128
47	Armstrong, Kevin	Wembley SC	162748	48	48	40	43	131
48	Pindle, Kate	Wembley SC	18773	49	45	45	44	134
49	McManus, Richard	QueenMary SC	191113	37	46	(DNC)	(DNC)	135
50	Russell, Nick	Maidenhead SC	157570	51	47	43	45	135
51	Wilson, Gareth	Wembley SC	166766	50	51	46	46	142