

Laser Performance UK National and Open Laser Championships, Mount Batten Centre, Plymouth, 21–28 July 2018

Supported by Tideway Investment Partners LLP and Phoenix Marine

Day four reports by Jon Emmett and James Foster

4.7

Whilst the fleet were waiting for the sea breeze on Wednesday morning, there was lots to do! First of all, Dan Whiteley gave a talk on his pre-start routines and the preparation he goes through before a race. The most important tip I took from his talk was finding the mean wind angle on both port and starboard tack, so that you know when you're on a lift or header before the start. After that, we had the day's briefing and previous day's prize giving, this consisted of a Q&A with the previous days winners. The morning was finished by a Rule 42 talk from the international jury.

Once out on the water, we were blessed with a brilliant sea breeze of 10–12knts! The first race of the day (Race 6) began with a starboard biased line and a left phase, this meant that the leaders came into the windward from the left and had a large gap between them and the rest of the fleet. These sailors consisted of Finley Dickinson (first), Lorcan Knowles (second) and Scott Forbes (third).

With plenty of wind, Race 7 allowed the fleet to hike and work the boat over the large chop. Throughout the race, the wind shifted to the right and increased throughout the oscillation. All of the leaders of the first beat came from the right-hand side of the course. The second beat brought a large left shift which persisted for the whole leg, making port the long tack. Many gusts came from the left made this the favoured side. James Foster won, Coco Barrett was second and Lizzie Beardsall third.

Race 8 began with similar conditions to the previous races, with another right oscillation throughout the first beat. The leaders around the first mark were Jack Graham-Troll, Sam de la Feuillade and James Foster. These boats had dug into the header for the longest on port tack and tacked on a massive starboard lift. During the second beat, the wind completely died, leaving the race course with massive chop

and very little wind. This enabled Lorcan Knowles to work his way up the fleet and take the lead which he kept for the rest of the race.



Close racing in the 4.7 fleet. Photo: Paul Gibbins Photography

Radial

Wednesday dawned with blue skies the hottest day yet so far and that meant an early sea breeze and an early launch. Maybe too early for some as David Battye and Ron Westcott were only half way through their Rule 42 talk.

Race 6 and Arthur Brown won the Committee Boat end, but it was Jon Emmett who was first to tack and grabbed the lead before massively over standing the windward mark, allowing Brown back in control. As always, George Povall, who managed to come out the left, was never far behind, overtaking Emmett on the run and Brown on the reach for the race win. So, it stayed Povall, Brown and Emmett to the finish.

Race 7 and Povall started where she left off, although Alexandre Kowalski from France grabbed the lead for a time, but a determined Povall took the bullet by the end with third place going to Drew Barnes in his best of race of the Nationals so far.

Race 8 and the wind was in the left-hand phase, making an extremely port-biased line. Therefore, the pin was the place to be and it was won by Povall who stayed in control for the whole race. A perfect, three-bullet day for her. Emmett was also one of the first to tack and took second place from Brown who had a great day, making up for a disappointing Tuesday and showing what he is capable of.



George Povall had three firsts on Wednesday and is the clear leader in the Radial fleet. Photo: Paul Gibbins Photography

Standard

In the Standard fleet, Sam Whaley had another good day on the water. With a fourth, and two firsts, he now has a two-point advantage in first place. Dan Whiteley had a first and a second, while Joe Mullan had three thirds.



The leader in the Standard fleet is Sam Whaley. Photo: Paul Gibbins Photography

Full results: www.kbsuk.com/laser/events/index.asp?EventID=107

Images from: <https://pgc.pixieset.com>