

Bala Sailing Club
Blaze Open
12-13 May 2007

13 Blazes entered the 2 day event at Bala Sailing Club

Race 1 started in a force 3 on a figure of eight course with some fast reaches.

Mike Lyons led to the leeward mark but then proceeded to round it the wrong way, followed by Nick Miller. Third place Stuart Brown could not believe his luck & rounded correctly followed by the rest of the fleet. Mike Lyons re-rounded & fought his way back to 2nd place behind Stuart Brown with local Ken Hull in third.

By Race 2 the wind had strengthened & with tighter reaches promised an exiting race. Nick Miller was first to the windward mark followed by Mike Lyons who then passed him on the first reach. Mike then proceeded to lead the front of the pack to the wrong mark but Nick Millar was first to realise the error & bore off to re- take the lead at the next mark. Final places were Mike Lyons, Nick Millar & Stuart Brown.

Race 3 provided even stronger winds & Stuart Brown recorded 20.7 knots on his GPS whilst trying to regain places after a capsize when in third place. One of the highlights for the spectators came from John Abbot & Bob Yates who gave an exhibition in synchronised capsize on the last lap.

Final position for race 3 were Mike Lyons, Nick Millar & Ken Hull.

Day 2 dawned with the wind almost gone & turned through 180 degrees. This provided some very tricky conditions & huge gains to be had if you got on the right side of the wind shifts. Stuart Brown led at the windward mark followed by John Saunders, with series leader Mike Lyons mid fleet at this point. Mike however managed to sort out the shifts & finished in first place followed by Ollie Birtwistle & Stuart Brown.

The final race again saw lots of place changes in the fickle winds but eventually Mike Lyons settled into 1st place followed by Nick Miller & then Stuart Brown.

Prizes were presented to Mike Lyons from Burghfield in 1st, Stuart Brown in 2nd, Nick Millar from Glasson in 3rd & Ken Hull from Bala in 4th