

Dalgety Bay Sc Regatta, 24/25th May 2008

From Liz Tulloch

Dalgety Bay SC launched the first of the Forth's Major Dinghy Regattas on the May Bank Holiday Weekend with a bumper number of 91 boats arriving from all over Scotland and England. This was the first event to be supported by Forth Yacht Clubs Assoc., and positions will be logged for the Forth Dinghy Championship.

A strong, cold easterly set in on the first day kicking up a heavy sea but the sunshine was brilliant and competitors anticipated a day of fast exciting sailing. Courses had been carefully planned and the Regatta went ahead with no delays although the Committee Boat certainly was rocking and rolling.

Largest class was the Toppers with 25 entries, headed by a strong contingent from the West of Scotland. Conditions were tough and places changed frequently as the Toppers battled for the lead.

Angus Gray Stephens of Tarbert won through with Jack Evans of Chanonry 2nd and Crawford Paris of Strathclyde 3rd.

Paris didn't let matters stay that way, however, and pushed into first place in the next two races. Stephens took 2nd overall while Forth sailor, Emma Palmer, sailing consistently, was 3rd.

As expected, the Asymmetrics put in an exciting performance with Dalgety Bay's Ian Renilson, visitors, John Evans and John Reekie, all in the hunt for the lead. Sailing was fast and furious and capsizes spectacular.

After 3 races, Evans of Derwent Reservoir finished only one point ahead of Renilson. Third was the RS200 sailed by Ronnie Millar.

In the conventional Fast Handicap, the Fireballs from Aberdeen & Stonehaven YC dominated, all racing together at the front of the fleet. It gave the race a touch of nostalgia for many DBSC members started out in Fireballs.

Donald Smith won, taking all three first places. Paul Hignett's Moth hummed its way round in foiling weather and into 4th overall.

in the Laser Class, Mark Powell of the home club also took 3 golds while Ben Wilcox of ELYC headed the class of 13 Radials.

The Oppies were certainly the bravest class, butting their way through the steep waves. Six competed in the Main Fleet with Calum Airlie from St Mary's Loch also achieving the perfect score.

It was, however, weather to suit the experienced helms and the Oppie Regatta Fleet wisely withdrew.

Next day brought no improvement in conditions, in fact they grew worse and racing was abandoned.

Full results and pictures can be seen on the DBSC website and the next major event will be the East Lothian YC 80th Anniversary Regatta on 7th/8th June which is a date to remember and keep.