

Chanonry Sailing Club

Recent events at Chanonry Sailing Club have produced some local winners and some high placing in Scottish events.

The first weekend race series is now over and has attracted a total of 16 competitors. Miles Mack sailing his Laser took first place by counting a 3 first places and 4 seconds, while Olivia Robinson in her Laser Radial came a close second.

On the 12/13 June the club hosted a Scottish Traveller Event for RS200 and RS 400 class dinghies. A lower turnout than is usual for these type of events saw 8 RS200s and only 2 RS400s travel from as far as the Borders and Scrabster. Winds were light and easterly for Saturday and very strong from the west for Sunday to give a good range of conditions.

3 close races on Saturday resulted in local sailors Richard and Val Evans holding the overnight lead in their RS200. Sunday dawned with much more wind and some very exciting sailing ensued. All but one boat capsized, some more than once, although only one boat required help from the safety boats. As the wind strengthened to force 6 the third race of the day was abandoned by the race officer David Gibb and final RS200 results saw Bess Homer and Kirsty Higgins from Dalgety Bay SC in first place with the Evans in second. Another local boat helmed by Ron Beaton and crewed by Olivia Robinson took part in this type of event for the first time and showed great improvement with each race. Scrabster SC's Geoff Henstridge crewed by his sister was first placed of the RS400s.

A week later on the 20th June the annual RNLI Ness Cup race involving a course around the Inner Moray Firth was sailed in mainly light and variable winds interspersed with heavy and cold rain showers. 9 dinghies and 1 visiting cruiser from Invergordon Boating Club spent up almost 4 hours on the course. Despite frequent drifting interludes when the wind dropped the results throughout the fleet were very close with at least 3 pairs of boats finishing within a minute of each other after allowing for handicaps. Past winner of this event Ben Yeats, sailing his single handed RS300, won the race from last years winners Richard and Val Evans in their RS200. David Masson (RS300) and Christine Stewart (Laser) took 3rd and 4th places.

The weekly Friday evening club sailing is proving very popular especially with new members and novices as it provides an opportunity to sail in any of the clubs', and also, members' boats. There is a safety boat on the water and experienced sailors are about to show you the ropes and make sure that the worst that happens is getting your feet wet!

Future events at the club include a cruise to Cromarty on the 26/27 June for cruisers and a dinghy cruise and BBQ is planned for the 11 July. See www.chanonry.org.uk for information.

RFE