



Cygnets Model Boat Club Maidstone

I.C. Sports Trophy, 2009 - Round 1

Thanks to Matt Mock who kindly provided the editorial and hopefully some photographs to follow

Round one of the Cygnets Model IC trophy took place on 7th March 2009. As usual there are to be two challenges this year, denoted by engine size, notably the 12s and 21s. We are a small section of the club, but this year we are to be joined by a new member to swell our ranks. He was not at this first meet, but we look forward to meeting him soon.

Having had a lot of bad weather recently as well as being pretty cold this year so far, it was a very pleasant surprise to be greeted by a very warm Mote Park. No coats needed! I hope this is the shape of things to come this year.

We had enough spotters, so this was one of the few races where we raced four at one time. We agreed to run two races of each class, and to accumulate the scores of each class to determine the overall winner of the day. Those with the most race wins at the end of the season would take the trophy. This year, I asked the others if we might accumulate the scores over the whole season, thus running a separate competition. It was not given bad press, so I will run the scores alongside the normal competition and see what happens, as I believe that having two challenges gives a wider chance to those not so experienced or indeed lucky whilst out on the water.

Anyway, down to business.

Well, if anyone is going to have bad luck, they may as well get it over as early in the season as possible. Paul was fine tuning his boat when it decided not to respond to transmitter input, and beached itself onto our concrete compound. We could see that the throttle linkage had broken in the open position, allowing the boat to accelerate towards us. The resultant smash is one ruined hull and minor damage to some of the rudder linkage.

The first race of the 12s looked to be fairly close until Laurie had his boat stop for no apparent reason on lap 21. Prior to this on lap 20, Mick Pain had trouble having collided with Mike Potter and retired also. Mick always runs a very fast boat as he uses only the highest components coupled with many years experience running his own engineering company. This left the way open for Mike and myself to make some progress. The result was a close win for me by one lap. Race two looked to be a close thing as Mick was now eighteen laps behind myself and Mike, and Laurie was not going to manage to get his boat running again. After twenty laps, Mick's rudder stuck and his boat hit mine, killing me dead in the water. Mike kept going and was steadily pulling away for the race win. Encouraged by Paul, I jumped into our rescue boat, retrieved my stricken boat, got back to the shore, restarted and just took the race by one lap. Close stuff! This gave me the days win overall.

The two races for the 21s were next, and this included Paul who had not raced yet due to his earlier mishap with his smaller boat. The race got off with all starting successfully, however, this time the gremlins got hold of Mike's boat and he retired after only eight laps. Again, more bad luck for Mick, as he also retired after only twenty three laps. This left Laurie and Paul to battle things out. Earlier bumps between all competitors had taken their toll as the remaining two boats looked slower than usual. Close racing ensued and both were racing for the line to make sure their last lap counted. They crossed the line almost together, which made little difference as the timer went three seconds later. Both were on lap thirty six, resulting in a tie for this race. This meant that the second race was more important for these two drivers, and the others had some real catch up to do. This is where my reasoning for also accumulating the scores

for the complete series comes in, as anyone is still in with a chance of winning the new trophy, even if they do not achieve actual race wins.

Race two started after a quick turnaround, and it was Mick yet again who was dogged by bad luck. He retired again on lap twenty. Mike did well this race, but he had too much ground to make up from the previous race. Although managing a creditable thirty six laps, this was not going to be enough overall. Still, that is a good total towards the accumulated overall season score, so was always worth keeping going. This left Laurie and Paul once again battling it out. The end was close, and as Laurie crossed the line on lap twenty seven, Paul was on the final bend heading into the straight. If he made the finishing line before the timer, he would win as he was nearly one lap ahead. He missed it by two seconds. Both drivers had tied again. This meant the first 21s race of the season was a tie!

Great fun for the first race, and more to come I reckon. Keep boating!

12's			25's			
1st	Matt	66 laps	1st	Tie	Laurie	Paul
2nd	Mike	61 laps	2nd			

Accumulated laps trophy 12's

March

Laurie	21
Mike	61
Matt	66
Mick	34
Paul	0

Race wins

March	April	May	June	July
Matt				

Aug	Sept	Oct
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