

Last weekend saw the 3rd of this year's Inland series at Rutland water. As always this event also included the famous Rutland marathon. This years event also marked a new experience for me at Rutland in the form of warm and sunny weather all weekend. Racing kicked off on Saturday with light and shifty northerly winds leading to extremely tactical racing among the experienced fleet of 28 raceboarders.

Race-1 saw Chris Gibson followed by Rob Kent take a flyer on the left side of the course to pull clear of the fleet on the last lap.

Race-2 saw Paul Leone and Mark Kay pull clear of the rest of the fleet with 1st race winner Chris down in 14th place re-enforcing the shiftness of the conditions

Race-3 saw another last beat flyer this Time from Andy Mexome and Tom Naylor.

The final Race of the day was the Marathon, a race covering almost the full perimeter of Rutland water. This race saw some additional guest appearances on Raceboards in the form of Keith Atkinson and Tim Gibson (more comonly seen sitting on the beach waiting for the start of Formula racing). The raceboard fleet dominated the marathon taking all of the top 10 placings with Paul Leone and Bob Warren leading the fleet home.

Saturday evening saw another excellent social including the England v US match and Rutland's own human table football contest. Sadly the raceboard fleet proved a huge disappointment to their team captain in this event with half the team failing to make it to the pitch in time with excuses from "I'm still eating my pasta " through to "my gin and tonic proved far too appealing".

Sunday saw three more races in a light but slightly more predictable SW wind. With Paul Leone ill and Andy Mexome missing, assumed hung over after a party in Birmingham, the event was wide open with 6 or 7 sailors in with a shot at victory. Race-1 saw Dave Richard's demonstrating good board speed and tactics to take the lead only to be reeled in by Bob Warren and Rob Kent on the last run. Race-2 saw Mark Kay pull away to take a clear victory over Dave Richards. The last race with the event still un-decided saw Rob Kent take the lead pursued by Mark Kay and Chris Gibson with Mark Kay finally pulling away up the last beat followed by Rob and Chris.

Overall, proving by far the most consistent, Mark Kay took victory followed by Rob Kent and Chris Gibson. The ladies prize was again taken by Annette Kent.

This weekend also saw Rob and Annette's youngest daughter Rebecca taking victory in the Techno 3.5 class national championships.

The next event is the 3rd of the Cup Series at Bridlington. My form book tips for this event :

- Dave Hackford racing for the 1st time since Weymouth - Can he repeat his success ?
- John White - after an un-characteristic bad weekend at Rutland will be out for Revenge at

Brid

- Rob Kent and Mark Kay - looking to take a clear lead at the top of the rankings