

Minnis Bay/North Sea Cup – Formula Report

Minnis Bay is a new venue on the Formula calendar and after this event we hope it will here to stay. The venue offered ample parking, a grassy rigging area, hot showers at the sailing club, and most importantly fantastic sailing conditions. There was plenty of room to welcome our friends from over the channel that came to compete in the North Sea Cup. Unfortunately the UK turnout was down on previous events largely due to a significant number making the trip to France to compete in the Defi Wind event.

Sailors awoke to a strong 20 knot wind on the Saturday morning and most people were opting for the 10m option. Richard Jones had an unwelcome surprise for the rest of the fleet – a quiver of brand new North sails and a new Starboard for them to connect to! However, this was not the main talking point of the morning. Hitting the top of the gossip column was last year's formula champion Dave Coles who had passed out in his van and was feeling the worse for wear – he was not to race at all on the Saturday. The cause of this fainting is still a mystery but was more than likely caused by that extra half a pint he had on the Friday night!

A total of 5 races took place on the Saturday of which 3 were part of the North Sea cup series. All 5 races were dominated and won by Rich Jones (North Sails/Starboard) with Tim Gibson (North Sails/Gaastra in 2nd and Chris Bond (KA Sails/Gaastra) in 3rd.

Sunday was forecast to be windy.....very windy and it was!! The fleet was sent out in 25 knots for the first race and they stayed out for a second race in winds of well over 30 knots. The first race saw one change from the previous 5 as Dave Coles (Severne/Starboard) took to the water and took 2nd place behind Rich and in front of Tim. The second race really took its toll as both Rich and Dave chose to retire in the strengthening wind and uncontrollable water state. This paved the way for Tim Gibson to notch up a win with Chris Bond in 2nd and Bob Ingram showing good form and survival instincts to get 3rd. The wind continued to build and Bond had to be rescued by the sea wall by Mr lcke who had sat out the racing that day.

Overall it was another great event with exhilarating racing and a fantastic social scene with the odd beverage consumed and a few tunes played on the guitars. Next up on the calendar is Whitwell where the racing always seems to deliver as well as the social – this year there will be human bar football again with the Formula fleet hoping to regain their title. It is also your opportunity to raise money for charity and the UKWA in the Rutland marathon so hope to see you there.

Results

1st Rich Jones (North Sails/Starboard)

2nd Tim Gibson (North Sails/Gaastra)

3rd Chris Bond (KA Sails/Gaastra)