



Shropshire Sailing Club Race Results

Sunday 9th October: Junior Open

DEFENDING champion Ben Lawrence retained Shropshire Sailing Club's junior open title on a day requiring physical courage as well as skill at Whitemere. But the margin of victory was narrow after three hard races, with the best two results counting.

Both Lawrence, aged 18, of Shrewsbury, and Ed Shelley, of Market Drayton, recorded a race win and a second place to tie on three points. But on countback Lawrence's discarded result of second edged him ahead of Ellesmere College year 11 pupil Shelley, whose worst result had been a third place. Lawrence, who will be too old to compete next season, was presented the club's Spunhill Trophy, by Race Officer Brian Johnson.

In the 14 and under category Beth Endacott, of Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury, and Grace Dutton, of Thomas Adams, Wem, sailed consistently in a club Feva to claim the honours with a net score of eight, as well as finishing fourth overall, while Charlotte Norris was close behind with a net 10.

India Edwards and Harriet Garner, who came sixth overall, also won a prize for best newcomers.

Johnson and his race team had hoped to fit in six races. 17 boats launched for the first of the three races before lunch, with some heavily reefed (CRT), as 20mph winds gusted sharply into the mid-30s. With four safety boats on the water, even the best sailors were capsizing in the gusts, while by the second and third races some decided discretion was the better part of valour and headed for the shore.

After lunch, eight boats launched for the fourth race. But as the committee boat prepared to go into the pre-race countdown, even stronger gusts ripped across Whitemere. With several boats upside down, all safety boats occupied and no signs of the winds abating the decision was taken to abandon for the day.

After the prize-giving Brian Johnson said: "All the youngsters deserve enormous credit. At the front of the fleet, there was a great battle between Ben and Ed, and Ed's brother George, while further back some of the youngsters who don't have as much experience really threw themselves into it."

Many thanks to Brian, his assistants and the safety team on a demanding day.

Shropshire SC Junior Open.

Overall: 1. Ben Lawrence, 3pts; 2. Ed Shelley, 3pts; 3. George Shelley, 4pts. 4. Beth Endacott & Grace Dutton, 8pts; 5. Charlotte Norris, 10pts.

14 and under: 1. Beth Endacott & Grace Dutton, 8pts; 2. Charlotte Norris, 10pts; 3. India Edwards & Harriet Garner, 25pts.

ends