



New Years Day 2012

The clubs annual 'Topper Bash' was held on New Years Day. Despite universal protest, the Sailing Secretary insisted on being officer of the day and noted that for the races, rules such as port/starboard, windward/leeward and water at the mark had been abandoned as not being in the spirit of the occasion. Further, any racer observing such rules or being 'too polite' on the water would be penalised. Even worse, Karen Ashton also turned up to walk the officer of the day (or was it his dog?) – not very clear.

Race 1, a windward/leeward course was led from start to finish by Francis Staples since everyone else crashed into each other on the start line.

Race 2 followed the same format, but since the Chief Pirate (Instructor) had turned up, I have no idea what happened since not only did he ram everyone in sight but his son kept moving one of the marks.

Race 3 added a requirement that each racer pick up one plastic ball at or around the windward mark. All would have been well but the Training Principal picked up several balls on the second and third laps leading to him being chased all over the mere by the Chief Pirate.

The officer of the day awarded the adult prize to Francis Staples although we still don't know why. The Junior award might have been awarded to Tom Dutton but since he spent little of his time in a boat, it was awarded instead to Grace Dutton for no other reason, it seems than there were no other juniors available. The Chief Pirate was mentioned in despatches for being a hopelessly incompetent pirate (or instructor).

Only a few Toppers were mildly damaged in the fracas. The bill will be sent to the Chief Pirate.