

The third week of the racing season continued to encounter mixed weather conditions.

On the Tuesday of the pursuit racing it had been blowing force 5 gusting 7 all day. This may have put off some competitors because only six turned up for the racing. However, the wind started moderating by the evening. Even so, most competitors elected to rig a sail one size smaller than usual.

A two lap course was set, from the beach at Ladies Bay reaching out to the centre of the bay, with a beat back to the "Christmas pudding" and then a run back to the end of channel buoy.

The wind continued to moderate during the evening, and by the end was no more than a three gusting four. Sailors who'd rigged smaller sails found themselves underpowered, and two who competed on formula boards could not keep up with the IMCO's.

In race one, Simon Lovell, off 5 minutes, held off Graham Le Page (5) and Ian Campbell (4) to take first place, with Le Page and Campbell respectively second and third. The second race was won by Le Page, with Lovell second and Campbell third.

Three regular competitors had given advance apologies for the Sunday morning course racing meeting, due to other commitments, but nevertheless the turnout was disappointing.

However Robert Read made a welcome appearance, and together with Tim Laine and Bob Perkins all on IMCO's, made up a quorum for two races in light but interesting conditions.

No doubt the light weather played a part in keeping others away. Somewhat paradoxically though, light conditions offer an excellent opportunity for improving racing skills, since one can concentrate on trimming the board and sail to extract the most from every bit of wind.

In a light south to south-easterly breeze, a single lap course was set, beginning in Tiger Bay down to a windward mark north-west of the windsurfing channel, followed by a couple of broad reaches out into the bay and then back to the start.

Perkins opened the gate for the first race, which on this occasion was opened before, not after, the start buoy, because of the shortness of the first beat. Being the rabbit was an advantage since the sailors starting on starboard had to tack after 50 metres or so to avoid the rocks. Tim Laine, with his 10.8 metre sail, took first, with Perkins second and Read third.

The wind had been surprisingly constant for the first race, which in the event only lasted ten minutes. So three laps of the same course were set for race 2. Perverse as always; the wind then died down.

Robert Read opened the gate for the second race. Half way through the first beat the reduced wind then veered more to the south west, and Read picked up a gust which gave him a lead over Perkins. Read's lead was then clinched when Perkins gybed the wrong side of the buoy and had to go back around.

In the second lap the wind became rather variable, but competitors persevered, and by lap three it had settled into a generally south west direction. Laine took first, with Read second and Perkins third.