

## **Week 10 (Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June)**

Week 10 of the GBSA's board sailing season benefited from some welcome stronger winds.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> races in the 3<sup>rd</sup> GBSA pursuit racing series for 2008 were held at Ladies Bay on the evening of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Competitors arrived to rig up in a south westerly breeze. With the acceleration caused by the wind flow over the bank up to the common the wind initially appeared quite strong, but on the beach was in fact in the lower range of force 4.

For the first race a three lap course was set from the beach, with a beat out to a buoy in the approach to Ammareurs. There followed a longish broad reach on the high tide to a buoy near the beach in Sandy Hook which, while providing slightly flukier winds, gave the veterans and less experienced sailors a calm water gybe. There was then a dog-leg return to the end of channel buoy, comprising a close reach to clear the reef off Ammareurs, followed by a very broad reach down to the buoy.

In these wind conditions the formula boards came into their own. Glen Le Cheminant, off 3 minutes, took first place, with Tim Laine (8) second and Simon Gregory, also off 8, third. Rod Hutchinson (4) in fourth place, was the first IMCO over the line.

With a slight easing in the wind, the second race was shortened to two laps. Le Cheminant, now off 4, took his second first place of the evening. Graham Le Page (3) on his IMCO, managed to hold on to take second place. The other two formula boards, now both off 9 minutes, took the next two places, with Laine in third place and Gregory in fourth.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> races in the 3<sup>rd</sup> course racing series were held the following Sunday in a south westerly force 4 gusting to 5.

These conditions were ideal for the two formula board sailors, Tim Laine and Simon Gregory, who took first and second places respectively in both races, in the process lapping most of the other competitors sailing conventional long boards.

A three lap course was set, with a beat from the end of Channel buoy out to a buoy off Rouse, followed by a broad reach across the bay, with a gybe onto a closer reach back to the start. The waves passing the gybe mark caused a few upsets, and 6 of the 13 starters in the first race found the wind and sea conditions too severe to complete the three lap course.

First long board sailor home, and third overall, was Jo Robinson, followed by Simon Lovell in fourth, and Denis White in fifth.

With the wind making slightly, only 9 sailors elected to start the second race of the morning. Lovell took 3<sup>rd</sup> with Robinson fourth. White was hard on their heels for another fifth place.

With five races still to be held for the course racing series the result is still wide open. Any of the regular sailors could be in the first three, but the winner will almost certainly emerge from those who took the first five places today.