

Week 19 (Sunday 24th August)

Yet another force 5 to 7 on the Tuesday evening meant that pursuit racing had to be cancelled again – for the second week running. I can't remember when we had so many cancellations due to strong winds.

The usual Sunday morning league racing had been suspended, because the previously postponed Herm-a-thon had been rescheduled for then. (In the event the Herm-a thon was cancelled for a second time).

However three sailors arrived at the beach, braving a little drizzle and earlier stronger winds, and organised a couple of “friendly” races between them. By the start time the sun had come out, and the wind had settled down into a pleasant south westerly force three to four.

A course of two laps was sailed; beating out from the windsurfing channel buoy to a windward buoy near the Rousse headland, with a broad reach down the waves to the Christmas Pudding buoy, and a run back to the start.

With the sea rising towards the top of the tide, and in rather choppy water, the sailors enjoyed two closely contested races in almost ideal long board conditions.

Bob Perkins opened the gate for the first race, which proved a slight advantage. Even so Jo Robinson was first at the windward mark, and subsequently first at the finish. Graham Le Page made up some ground, and at the finish line Le Page and Perkins were overlapped, with Perkins about half a board's length ahead.

The wind freshened for the second race, and veered slightly more westerly. This time Le Page opened the gate for the start. Robinson again established an early lead, with Perkins and Le Page in close contention for second. However in the lap 2 beat, Le Page tacked off quite soon onto starboard and into calmer water. Perkins persevered on port towards Tiger Bay, which meant punching into the quite steep sided chop in this part of the course. In the event this still proved the best option, since Le Page got into some adverse tide around the Amarreurs reef and in approaching the windward buoy.

After the final gybe at the Christmas Pudding, Robinson dropped her sail, but recovered in time to take first place by a couple of board lengths, with Perkins second and Le Page third.