Grafham Water Cat-Fleet E-sailing Blog

By Julian Bosch

29/04/20

Friday's racing saw 8 boats start yet still did not disappoint. Podium spots continued to change throughout the evening, with Jules having his worst performance yet, the other sailors scrambled for points in the last race of the series. The first race began again with huge port bias, causing a few boats to take chances, resulting in mayhem and penalties off the start line. This did not however faze Jon Sweet who boldly broke free to the front of the fleet, leading the fleet around the course. GBR141 had also fared well and was soon on Jon's heels. Stephen and Jules continued to battle for position just behind, however the race was ultimately won by Jon, with GBR141 in second, and Jules narrowly beating Stephen for third. The second race saw Jon and GBR141 fight it out for the lead from the start, each causing the other penalties, as well as showing great skill through tight mark roundings and impressive tactics. In the end, it was Jon who managed to take the win, leaving GBR141 in second. Behind them, Ivanwindsurf had sailed well and was able to claim the last podium spot.

The third race saw Ivan get ahead off the start line and sail a blinder of a race to finish first. Jon sailed his way through the fleet, dodging all the port tack boats and capitalising on windshifts, to allow him to cross the line second. Paul-Henri2019 was quick to follow and sailed his way to third place. The fourth and final race of the series was won by Jon Sweet, allowing him to claim the overall victory for the night, while a hotly contested second place was achieved GBR141, who narrowly beat the outstandingly sailed boat by Stephen, who finished the race third. The overall victor for the night was Jon Sweet in first, GBR141 in second and Ivanwindsurf in third.

The fun F-50 race began with Jules being penalised with a false start in the F-50, and off the line he was in last place. Jon and GBR141 looked set to have another outstanding race, however due to huge windshifts, and patchy conditions, it was still all to play for. Jules began catching up throughout the first and second laps and soon he was in third position. At the final upwind, Jules had managed to overtake GBR141 and was closing in on Jon. Disaster then struck, for Jon with a stall in the gate, allowing Jules to get ahead. A bad line for Jules from the mark, appeared to be salvation for Jon, however a bad mark rounding into the reach, saw Jules take the overall win, with Jon in second and GBR141 in third.

Overall results as follows

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total	Position
Jon Sweet	1	1	(2)	1	3	1
GBR141	2	3	(5)	2	7	2
Ivanwindsurf	5	2	1	(6)	8	3
Jules	3	4	4	(5)	11	4
Stephen	4	6	(7)	3	13	5
John Smith	(7)	5	6	4	15	6
Paul-Henri2019	6	(8)	3	7	16	7

Gordy	(8)	7	8	8	23	8

26/04/20

Last Sunday's racing saw 9 boats start each race, once again overall results were really close for the evening, with only 3 points separating the top three boats. The first race began with the majority of the fleet getting perfectly timed starts from the committee boat end. A port favoured leg saw much of the fleet tack off early, resulting in many boats being awarded penalties. Jon managed to fight his way through the resulting mayhem at the windward mark, and then established a lead which he held for the duration of the race. Paul-Henri had an impressive race too, and finished close behind Jon, claiming second place. Jules, after claiming one too many penalties ended up finishing third.

The second race saw another blinder from Paul-Henri, where he established a lead and held it for the entire race. Jules and Jon continued to battle out for second place, and eventually Jules prevailed, in an attempt to better his overall score.

The third race was the first of the Nacra 17 races, and saw extremely shifty conditions cause difficulties for a number of sailors. Extensive areas of light wind saw Jon get ahead again and sail his boat to victory, Jules rounded the final mark in a good position and was able to finish second, with GBR141 close behind taking third.

The final race of the evening saw Jon choose to run the Nacra 17 race with a reaching start, to provide a more interesting challenge for the sailors. About 50% of the fleet chose to raise their spinnakers for the first reach, however many of these boats had misjudged the start, and ended up being OCS. Jules was quick to capitalise on the spinnaker move, and it saw him reach the first mark in the lead. This put him ahead of the fleet, and allowed him to stay in clean air for the rest of the race, gaining him the win by almost 200m. Jon was racing GBR141 for second place, and eventually, Jon took second, leaving GBR141 in third.
This left the overall winners for the evening, as Jon in first place, Jules in second and Paul-Henri in third.

The fun F-50 race had Jules get a false start, and as a result reached the first mark in last place. Jon was quick to take the lead, with GBR141 close behind. Very shifty conditions however showed that it was still all to play for, and as the race progressed, Jules gradually gained place after place, while John Smith was unlucky, and soon fell further and further behind. At the final mark, Jules eventually managed to catch GBR141, however Jon was just ahead and took the win, with Jules in second and GBR141 in third. John Smith eventually finished almost 2 minutes behind the leading boat, after what was a terrible race for him. Overall results as follows

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total	Position
Jon Sweet	1	(3)	1	2	4	1

Jules	(3)	2	2	1	5	2
Paul-Henri	2	1	(5)	4	7	3
Ivanwindsurf	4	4	4	(8)	12	4
GBR141	10	(10)	3	3	16	5
John Smith	6	5	(7)	7	18	6
Stephen	5	7	6	(9)	18	7
Smasher	(10)	6	10	5	21	8
Jack Mash	(10)	8	8	6	22	9

22/04/20

Last Wednesday's racing saw a well-attended evening with 8 boats starting the races. Exciting, shifty conditions, saw a number of place changes throughout each race, as well as further false starts and huge start line biases. The first race began with 5 boats starting, and saw the boats best at spotting the shifts move quickly to the front of the fleet. Jules and Jon Sweet battled it out for first place once again, with Jules taking the win by 0.1 seconds. John Smith sailed close behind and eventually finished third, taking the final podium spot.
The second race began with an extensive port bias on the start line, despite this the fleet opted to start on starboard. In his eagerness to go, Jules claimed a false start and had to dip back, he was quick and approached the line on port, narrowly getting above the fleet, due to the extensive bias, this put him in a good position on the upwind leg, allowing him to gain a significant lead. Ivanwindsurf also managed to capitalise on the port bias, and tacked immediately after the committee boat, and was able the stay ahead of Jon during the race, allowing him to claim second place. Jon still hung on and was able to gain the last podium spot.
The third race saw Jules sail a blinder, and successfully achieve a third win, Jon and Ivan continued to battle hotly for second place, with Ivan eventually coming out on top, leaving Jon with third for the second time.
Race four, saw Jules get kicked out just after the start, leaving the top spot open for battle, Jon, who was after a win now to improve his score, sailed his way to the front of the fleet and stayed there for the remainder of the race, John Smith made a surprising podium spot appearance, and thanks to some exceptional tactics was able to finish second, leaving Ivan with third.
The fun F-50 race saw Jules leave the start line at full speed, and reach the top mark first, however a well sailed boat by Jon quickly caught up and managed to take the win, with Jules in second and John Smith in third.
The overall winners for the evening, were Jules in first with three wins, Jon in second, and Ivan in third.

Overall results as follows:

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total	Position
Jules	1	1	1	(8)	3	1
Jon Sweet	2	3	(3)	1	6	2
Ivanwindsurf	(4)	2	2	3	7	3
John Smith	3	4	(6)	2	9	4
Paul-Henri2019	(9)	6	4	4	14	5
Stephen	5	(7)	5	5	15	6
GBR141	(9)	5	7	6	18	7
Gordy	(9)	8	8	7	23	8

19/04/20

Sunday's racing saw a slightly less impressive turnout than to the Friday racing, however the excitement and close racing prevailed nonetheless. 8 boats entered the races overall and claimed a variety of results. The First race began with Jon Sweet dominating from the word go, and consistently keeping ahead of the fleet by some distance. Stephen was the second boat for the majority of the race, however due to a poor mark rounding at the final windward mark, Jules was able to get ahead and finish second. Jon took the win, with Stephen in third.

The second race saw John Smith attempt a port fly off the start line, however this was soon proven to be a mistake, as the majority of the fleet had crossed the line on the gun, from the committee boat end. Jules was able to get clear ahead and take the overall win, with Jon close behind in second. Stephen worked his way up the fleet into third place again, showing obvious improvements on his previous scores.

Race three saw Jules claim another win, after consistently good mark roundings. Jon was desperately trying to catch up throughout the course but in the end, couldn't catch Jules, earning him second place. Third place went to Ivanwindsurf, who was making a comeback after bad scores in the earlier races.

The final race saw the top boats separated by a narrow margin of points, with Jon knowing he would need to win, to win the night. Unfortunately for him though, GBR141 sailed a blinder and comfortably took the victory, with Jon in second and Jules in third. This resulted in Jules being the overall winner for the night, with Jon Sweet in second and Stephen in third.

The fun F-50 race at 9:00 saw even closer racing where first and third place were hotly contested for. Jon and GBR141 battled it out in an attempt to secure the victory. At the end it was Jon who prevailed and secured first. GBR141 finished second, after a penalty at the final mark. Meanwhile, third place was being fought for by John Smith and Jules, John managed to cover Jules for the majority of the race, however after the last mark, the decision to sail the reach at a higher angle cost him the race by mere nanoseconds, the difference was too small to be recorded by the times at the end! This allowed Jules to finish third, with John Smith in fourth.

Overall results for the evening as follows:

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total	Position
Jules	2	1	1	(3)	4	1
Jon Sweet	1	2	2	(2)	5	2
Stephen	3	3	4	(6)	10	3
GBR141	6	(9)	5	1	12	4
John Smith	4	4	(6)	4	12	5
Ivanwindsurf	5	7	3	(9)	15	6
Gordy	(9)	5	7	5	17	7
Smasher	(9)	7	9	9	25	8

17/04/20

Friday's racing saw the best turnout yet, with 12 boats starting the second race. The bigger fleets led to more exciting and close racing, with numerous penalties awarded. The first race began with a huge crowd around the committee boat, causing huge amounts of dirty air as well as false starts for more eager racers. From the crowd, Jules managed to sail into clear air and eventually take the win. Ivanwindsurf consistently held his position across the course and sailed to second place, with GBR141 taking third.

The Second race saw Jules get another good start, allowing him to gain the lead at the beginning. Mayhem at the windward mark just extended Jules 'lead and saw other boats lose places, while Jules claimed a second victory. Jon Sweet was able to break free and gain distance on other boats at the mark allowing him to finish second. Again GBR141 was close behind and comfortably finished third.

The Third race saw further mayhem as boats jostled for position on the start and John Smith was penalised with two false starts putting him in a bad position for the upcoming race. For a third time, Jules was able to get a clear start and sail to victory, leaving GBR141 in second, and a surprise podium spot for StephenTheAmazing in third. The final race began with Jules receiving a penalty immediately after the start which resulted in him losing distance from the fleet, This allowed Jon Sweet to break free and sail in clear air ahead of the fleet, Jon convincingly took the win, with Ivanwindsurf close behind taking a second. GBR141 continued his consistent score, and finished in third place. The overall winners for the evening were Jules in first, Jon Sweet in second and GBR141 in third.

Overall results as follows:

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total	Position
Jules	1	1	1	(4)	3	1
Jon Sweet	(4)	2	4	1	7	2
GBR141	(3)	3	2	3	8	3

Ivanwindsurf	2	(6)	5	2	9	4
StephenTheAmazing	8	(11)	3	5	16	5
Smasher	6	4	(11)	6	16	6
Jack Mash	5	5	(11)	7	17	7
Gordy	7	8	7	(9)	22	8
John Smith	(10)	7	6	10	23	9
Kev1	(13)	9	8	8	25	10
Chubspud2803	10	10	13	(13)	33	11
Porco de cat	13	12	11	(13)	36	12

DNC = 13

The fun F-50 race at the end of the evening saw drama from the word go, with crowds immediately on the first mark, leaving many boats with penalties. Jon quickly took an early lead and held it throughout the race despite sinister windshifts that plagued all the boats around the course. Jon easily took the win, but the battle for second place still continued with GBR141 and Jules. On the last upwind leg, GBR141 was only metres ahead and managed to hold onto it until the spacer mark, where a bad mark rounding saw Jules get in front and take second place leaving GBR141 in third.

15/04/20

The Wednesday evening series failed to disappoint with some incredibly close racing and drama on the course. The first race began at 8pm and saw Jules get a clear start and work his way to the front of the fleet, Jon Sweet was working hard to gain places of the start line and was catching up to Jules on the final downwind leg. Narrowly, Jon lost out on the victory to Jules by the narrow margin of a tenth of a second! Ivanwindsurf had sailed consistently throughout the race, and took third place.
The second race saw two boats (GBR141 and John Smith) attempting port flyers, despite the majority of the fleet lined up on starboard. GBR141 was able to capitalise on this and crossed the entire fleet, putting him in a good position for the following upwind leg. John Smith was not so lucky, having to duck the entire fleet and losing huge amounts of distance. Jon Sweet sailed every wind-shift to his advantage and worked his way into the lead, allowing him to convincingly take the win. Jules had also been sailing well and managed to finish second with GBR141 taking third.
Race three saw further jostling for position, however due to connectivity problems, John Smith and Ivan Windsurf were kicked after the first beat. This continued the battle between Jules and Jon, resulting in Jon taking the win with Jules in second and Smasher beating GBR141 to finish third.
The Final race of the evening saw the whole fleet finish the race, as well as further battling for points between Jules and Jon. Jon now needed a first place to win the night, however Jules sailed exceptionally and managed to claim the win. Jon was close behind though and finished in second place, leaving Jules and Jon tied on points. Ivanwindsurf, had made a

comeback and finish third, narrowly beating Smasher at the end. The fun f-50 race was used as a tie breaker between Jules and Jon, which saw Jules, after a good start, get ahead at the first mark and hold the position. Jon was rapidly catching up though and soon towards the end of the race was only metres behind. Despite his efforts, Jules still managed to win the race, allowing him to take the overall win on Wednesday, leaving Jon with second. Third overall was Ivanwindsurf.

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total	Position
Jules	1	(2)	2	1	4	1
Jon Sweet	(2)	1	1	2	4	2
Ivanwindsurf	3	5	(7)	3	11	3
Smasher	5	(7)	3	4	12	4
GBR141	(8)	3	4	7	14	5
John Smith	4	4	(7)	6	14	6
StephenIsAwesome	(8)	6	5	5	16	7

DNC = 8

12/04/20

While the boats are left alone in the dinghy park, during the course of the lockdown, the Grafham catamaran sailors have been enjoying a selection of e-sailing races on Virtual Regatta organised by Jon Sweet every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Furthermore, some windsurfers have also taken to e-sailing catamarans, and have joined in the fun. Each race day, four races are run with three to count and an F-50 race held at the end for those wanting to prove their worth as a sailor. Many of the sailors complain that the F-50 is rather difficult to control, leading to some interesting races occurring. One discard is allowed to help accommodate for any technical difficulties. So far over the series we have been using F-18s and Nacra 17s for the most excitement and speed.

During the race day, Sunday 12th, the excitement was just as intense with a number of false starts and penalties awarded. The first race began with John Smith receiving 3 false starts before the race had even begun. At the end of the race, it was Jon Sweet who took the win with Ivanwindsurf in second and Jules in third. The second race was largely uneventful with Jon taking another win, Ivanwindsurf in second again and John Smith getting his act together to finish third. The third race began with Ivanwindsurf giving Jules a penalty off the start line and seeing him lead the fleet for the rest of the course. Jon kept up to hold onto second place, while Jules finished third while John Smith missed the downwind mark and sailed out to sea. The final race saw Jules claiming the top spot in the F-18, with Jon finishing second and Smasher in third.

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Total
Jon Sweet	1	1	2	(2)	4
Ivanwindsurf	2	2	1	(4)	5
Jules	3	(4)	3	1	7
Smasher	4	5	(6)	3	12
John Smith	5	3	(6)	5	13
2cool4school	6	6	4	(6)	16

The F-50 race at the end (which is never counted in the results) saw GBR141 make their first appearance of the night and win the race convincingly, followed by Jules who on the second downwind leg decided to teach Jon about windward/leeward rules resulting in a penalty that caused Jon to drop back in the fleet, allowing Jules to claim second place. Ivanwindsurf began to attack as well and sailed his way into third place, while Jon was left with fourth. F-50 results as follows:

Name	Position
GBR141	1
Jules	2
Ivanwindsurf	3
Jon Sweet	4
John Smith	5
2cool4school	6
Smasher	DSQ