

## Chelmarsh Laser Open 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008

It was a grey morning with little prospect of sunshine. There was wind on the lake but not as much as predicted. It was meant to be 14-16 mph. It was more like 8 mph.

It had picked up to 20 mph with strong gusts by the start of the first race and the 20 present were on the water and ready for action.

The new season was under way.

A good start saw Cameron Smith (Chelmarsh SC) lead the procession and reach the windward mark ahead of the pack. It did not take long for David Harper (Draycote Water SC) to make his intention clear, the reading of a shift in his favour saw the lead change hands. He was followed by Steve Harper (Draycote Water SC). Matthew Holbourn (Severn SC) gave Cameron a tough challenge to the line, but he could not quite make it. Wily campaigner Keith Wilkins (Chelmarsh SC) sneaked inside both of them to secure third place.



The second race saw Cameron again first the windward mark but he could not hold the lead for long. Richard Coates (Chelmarsh SC) showed his skill and application by securing a win, with a broken kicker ahead, of David Harper and Keith Wilkins. The wind had slackened to around 12 mph.

The third race saw the wind drop to 8mph with a possible three overall winners keen for a good race. David Harper stamped his authority on the day with a convincing win. Matthew Holbourn, still a junior had a brilliant 2nd just ahead of Richard Coates. Protests

against each of Keith Wilkins and Steve Harper put them out of contention in this race.

Overall Placings: 1<sup>st</sup> David Harper. 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Coates. 3<sup>rd</sup> Steve Harper. 1<sup>st</sup> Radial Andrew Smith (Netley SC). 1st 4.7 Sabine Townend (Chelmarsh SC). Is Junior Matthew Holbourn. 1<sup>st</sup> Youth David Harper. 1<sup>st</sup> Master Richard Coates. 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Beccy Kelsall (Banbury SC)

A good days racing, superb galley, plenty of action. What more could you ask for?

