

Shustoke Gauntlet 2017 – A testing of nerves to see if the wind filled in...

21 boats gathered for the race briefing on Sunday 12th March ready and raring for the 11.30 start, unfortunately it was at around this point at which the wind completely vanished and a decision was made to postpone racing until after lunch.

Fortunately the weather was extremely mild for March so the morning was spent out in the sunshine either impatiently watching for the wind or doing some last minute tuning! As promised the wind filled in from the North West after lunch to a fresh Force 3, gusting Force 4 by the end of the afternoon, allowing both 80min Pursuit races to still be held.

The first race was started off by 2 single handed Mirrors who led for the majority of the race with some good close racing between them. The Solos were also enjoying some good close class racing within their fleet until Andy Davis and Richard Charles eventually broke away to catch the Mirrors up in the last 15 minutes, along with David and Zara Turtle in their Miracle. Andy Davis took the lead at the end of a long beat to win the race, with team Turtle managing to hold off Richard Charles to take 2nd place.

The Miracle was first out the blocks in the second race and enjoyed the clear winds until the second to last beat when Andy Davis (Solo) took the lead closely followed by Adrian and Tracie Padro (Comet Trio), Peter Gray and Richard Pepperdine (Scorpion), and Stuart Hydon and Ann Biglin (Lark). The wind swung round making the next reach much finer resulting in the Scorpion, Lark and Miracle having to drop their spinnakers, but allowed Andy and Adrian & Tracie to maintain their boat speed on the tighter reach! Andy's lead was short lived however, as he was taken on the next leg by Gray and Pepperdine in their Scorpion, with the Comet Trio and Andy Bownes in his Phantom battling it out for third place.

At the end of the afternoon Andy Davis took pole position with 3 points, followed by Peter Gray and Richard Pepperdine in 2nd with 5 points, team Turtle were 3rd with 9 points, 4th and 5th went to team Padro and Stuart Hydon and Ann Biglin respectively, both with 10points.

Thanks go to race officer Chris Padro and his team for a great afternoons racing, the rescue team, and the galley staff – who provided a fantastic array of food as per usual!

Overall Results:

Pos	Fleet	Sail No	Helm Name	Crew Name	Club	R1	R2	Pt s
1st	Solo	5597	Andy Davis		Blithfield	1	2	3
2nd	Scorpien	2039	Peter Gray	Richard Pepperdine	Staunton Harold	4	1	5
3rd	Miracle	4026	David Turtle	Zara Turtle	Shotwick/ Shustoke	2	7	9
4th	Comet Trio	433	Adrian Padro	Tracie Padro	Shustoke	7	3	10
5th	Lark	2528	Stuart Hydon	Ann Biglin	Shustoke	5	5	10
6th	Solo	5468	Richard Charles		Shustoke	3	9	12
7th	Phantom	1170	Andy Bownes		Bartley	8	4	12
8th	Solo	4439	Cole Briscoe		Shustoke	6	6	12
9th	Scorpien	2036	Stephen Graham	Ross Kearney	Northampton	9	8	17
10th	RS200	1112	Nigel Pepperdine	Diana Pepperdine	Staunton Harold	11	11	22
11th	Phantom	1400	Jim Hopton		Shustoke	14	10	24
12th	Phantom	1	Peter Smith		Shustoke	16	12	28
13th	Solo	5642	Barrie Woodhall		Shustoke	15	15	30
14th	Phantom	1111	Brian Webley		Shustoke	17	14	31
15th	Solo	5474	Malcolm Coombs		Shustoke	10	DNC	32
16th	Phantom	1123	Tim Marden		Shustoke	19	13	32
17th	Mirror	69035	Stuart Sutcliffe		Shustoke	12	DNC	34
18th	Laser	161552	Andrew Ward		Shustoke	18	16	34
19th	Mirror	70025	Brian Nicholson		Shustoke	13	DNC	35
20th	Laser	170584	Keith Hardisty		Shustoke	20	17	37
21st	Mirror	70572	Fred Briscoe		Shustoke	DNS	DNC	44