

The Solo Open Sunday May 14th 2006

It may be common knowledge in our club but is worth repeating for newer members who don't know that 50 years ago Jack Holt designed the Solo dinghy while he was Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club's first Commodore. And, so, this year happens to be the 50th Anniversary of both The Solo Class Association and our own Club.

There is no doubt that Jack designed the boat with the shifty conditions of Wraysbury Lake in mind and, 50 years on, he would have chuckled at the conditions faced by four home club helms and eight visitors as they competed in this year's Solo Open.

The wind was never more than a force 2 and it swung regularly through 90 degrees creating minute by minute challenges to be on the right tack whether going upwind or downwind; classic Wraysbury conditions. Who got it right? Well, Dan Goodman was first off the starting line in race 1 and was never headed. Race 2 saw Dan again leading from the start but he fell back to find that Steve Jones, a former Club member, had used all his knowledge of Wraysbury to gain a win. Race 3, with all to play for, saw Dan leading again from the start but he failed to cover his Kingsmead clubmate, Ian Ayres, as they turned at the leeward mark and Ian got through to take the bell and, on aggregate, win the event having secured second places in the first two races.

What of our home contingent? John Hayes, Richard Lock, Tony Lord and myself had our own contest at the back of the fleet. As with the fleet as a whole, places chopped and changed all day and I now that we all enjoyed the contest. This was a day of classic pond sailing which for this correspondent gladdened the heart but murdered the knees.

Our thanks go to Colin Hall for organising the running of the day overall, to Tom and Beryl Webster who carefully disguised who of them was the Senior O.D for the day, to Andy & Alison Struthers for running a much appreciated galley and to Kim Wilkinson for organising prizes and manning the bar.

Another nice outcome to the day was that Richard Lock agreed to take over as Solo Fleet captain when I move away from the area in the summer.

Chris Vincent
4109

Results

	HELM		BOAT NUMBER
1	I. Ayres	Kingsmead	4589
2	D Goodman	Kingsmead	4322
3	S Jones	Littleton	4422
4	M Ball	Papercourt	4508
5	S Corder		4489
6	R Charles	Silver Wing	4110
7	W Loy		186
8	S Sharp		4593
9	C Vincent	Wraysbury	4109
10	T Lord	Wraysbury	4094
11	R Lock	Wraysbury	4304
12	J Hayes	Wraysbury	3750