

## Write-up Keith Poole

The last two races of the Bourne Plaice December Series for the Kara Cup were sailed on Sunday morning despite the risk of Storm Dylan interfering with the proceedings. With discards kicking in everything was very close, joint leaders Matthew Perry & Ralph Kee were level on points with Ben Batchelor & Mike Pridham in hot pursuit with others in with a realistic chance of upsetting the podium positions.

The wind was ranging between 10 to 16 knots with some very heavy gusts, this resulted in Ralph Kee taking an early bath dropping him well down the fleet, possibly spoiling his chances of the overall win. However, other swimmers brought him back up the fleet. Andrew Dean in his Devoti D-Zero put an impressive distance on the water between himself and the nip and tuck action behind him, a battle royal was going on between the Radial Lasers of Ben Batchelor, Matthew Perry and Mike Pridham. Despite the lead on the water it was only good enough for Dean to take 4th place with Pridham taking the win, Ben 2nd and Matthew 3rd, only 35 seconds separated these four on corrected time.

Going into the final race the score line effectively had Ben & Matthew on 10 points a piece Ralph on 11 and Prid on 12.

The wind picked up for the second race with an equal increase in gust strength, the direction of these gusts was also a lottery resulting in a dip for many including three at the same time on the first leg. Antony Ellis, Ralph Kee and Mike Pridham performed a very impressive synchronised triple dipping. Matthew Perry and Ben Batchelor were neck and neck at the first mark when Ben got himself in 'irons', this let Matthew get away to a lead that never looked threatened until a port/starboard incident towards the end. Penalty turns done Matthew went on to win the race and therefore the series, Ben came in 2nd with Andrew Dean 3rd.

Final Series results Matthew Perry 1st, Ben Batchelor 2nd and Mike Pridham 3rd.

MS&CC would like to thank Rob Cowell of Bourne Plaice for sponsoring the series, Keith Poole for OOD, assisted by Neil Rawlinson and May Shiu Chan and Jack for manning a very busy patrol boat. Full results can be found on the MS&CC website with plenty of photos on the club Facebook page.