

PENTLAND FIRTH YACHT CLUB 2010 REGATTA

The weekend of 19/20 June saw the Pentland Firth Yacht Club holding its annual open regatta. The event was generously supported by the Dounreay Communities Fund and also received support from the Thurso Sea Cadets who provided additional rescue boat cover.

The weather conditions were challenging and prevented most of the recent influx of newcomers to the club taking to the sea by themselves; it did not, however prevent some of them crewing for more experienced sailors and learning more about racing in the stronger winds and lumpy seas. In total the event attracted 11 boats including a visitor from the sailing club at Lochcarron on the west coast. The plan had been to have three races on the Saturday and three on the Sunday but the conditions meant that the Saturday programme had to be reduced to a single race but the full plan of three races was completed on the Sunday.

The event was characterised by the number of boat capsizes which meant there was lots of overtaking and the rescue boat was kept very busy throughout the weekend providing valued support whilst the sailors got their boats upright and back on course. The first three races were all won by Geoff Henstridge and his crew Johnathan Sinclair in their Tasar dinghy with a mix of boats taking the minor places but it was Malcolm Lord (Laser) in second place and Marjory Lord (Laser 4.7) third as they entered the final race. In this last race Geoff was again in the lead but lost his way and took the wrong course and it was Marjory Lord who powered home to take a win in this final race. This meant that it was Marjory who came second overall with son Malcolm third but the performance of Geoff and Jonathan during the first three races had assured them of victory overall.

The picture shows some of the competitors including the winning trio together with the hard worked safety boat crew and the overall officer in charge Mark Raffle who presented the prizes on behalf of the Dounreay Communities Fund.

Anyone interested in joining in the club activities whether it is dinghy sailing, powerboat driving or just becoming part of the thriving sailing club should contact the PFYC at info@pentlandfirthyachtclub.org.uk.