

## Black Water Icicle - 30<sup>th</sup> December 2012

I awoke on the 30th of December knowing I had to make a very difficult decision. Do I send them out to race or not? Being R/O it is always a hard call. Do you upset the hardened sailors or force the not so good sailors to go sailing?

After hearing about the races that had been cancelled on Saturday and that other clubs had already cancelled sailing today, I was going to try my best to get a race in...

24 starters turned up on the line and the wind was a good force 4/5 with the odd gust going over 30 knots.

After the first general recall they all behaved for the next start with a short upwind leg to a dropped mark then a gybe sorted out the wheat from the chaff. The fireballs seemed to get clear and with nine boats it was like an east coast winter open meeting. Phil was the only brave phantom sailor in Essex and Andy (the bandit) in his blaze seemed to enjoy the day. A few lasers also started with only one boat making the finish. It was local hero Richard Sharman showing the skills we know he has had for years in a laser.

With reports of huge waves out in the river enough to make the fireballs nosedive downwind I knew it would be a wild ride from Southey buoy to Mundon Navigation. But, I guessed right...there were big grins when they all came back on shore: well worth it they all said! With two rigs broken and the odd sail batten going astray it was not a bad day really.

Quote of the day went to Gareth Davies in his foiling moth. He was leading the race then turned at Mundon Navigation to come straight home. He just said:

I'M NOT GOING UP THERE!

Results as follows:

1st M SCARTH/ T RILEY BSC  
2nd S JARRED/ M JARRED BSC  
3rd M RICHARDS/ G HOY BSC  
6th R SHARMAN HBSC

JOSIE GUMMER AND HARRIET AYRE GET A SPECIAL PRIZE FOR SAILING THEIR 420 REALLY WELL

Race officer Mark Batt