

Silver Fleet Win for Bartley at the Midland Region Junior Regatta

Congratulations to Millie Hardiman for securing first place in the Silver fleet on Saturday at the Midland SC Junior invitational regatta.

The annual event with competitors from Olton Mere, Barnt Green, Shustoke, Midland, and Bartley attracted a healthy turnout of 29 boats (19 Gold fleet, 10 Silver fleet). Bartley entered 2 RS Tera Sports in the Silver fleet with Alex and Millie at the helms, and Megan entered the gold fleet in her RS Tera Pro. 3 Bartley RS Fevas entered the Gold fleet with helm / crew combinations of Michael and George, Sean and Cecily, and Jack and Lewis.

After some frantic offloading and rigging of boats (thanks to the supporting parents!) the Bartley sailors made their way to the start of the first race. The weather was overcast and chilly with a force 3 to 5 NE wind coming over the dam. The figure of 8 course provided a long beat followed by some useable spinnaker legs back to the start. There were 3 races in total with a single discard, each race lasting nearly an hour so plenty of racing experience was gained by all attendees.

Race 1 saw the fleet sussing each other out and finding the best wind on the course. Megan was first Tera Pro over the line sailing a near perfect race to take 6th on handicap. Millie and Alex fought through well against the fleet of 4 Tera Sports from Olton Mere to take 2nd and 6th respectively in the Silver fleet. Unfortunately none of the other clubs had fielded any double handers so the 3 RS fevas from Bartley were racing each other. Race 1 was eventful with George and Michael showing off their capsize recovery expertise after 4 dunkings, and Jack and Lewis showing an interesting jury rig when their jib came adrift. Cecily finally got used to Sean's love of the full speed spinnaker approach to mark rounding to give them their best position of the day in 15th.

After a lunch of Pizza or jacket potatoes the fleet took to the water again for the final two races back to back.

With the wind shifting the windward mark was moved towards the clubhouse catching out those heading to the right. Those choosing the clubhouse side of the course made good gains over the rest of the fleet with Cecily and Sean, Megan, and Millie all reading the shift well to be in the front group at the mark. Alex fought through to be the 3rd Tera Sport at the windward mark holding off the following pack. Michael and George decided on one final capsize before mastering the conditions and fighting back to sail past Jack and Lewis in a great battle with spinnakers flying. Unfortunately Sean and Cecily capsized on the last lap dropping them back behind the other two Fevas and retiring them from the final race.

The windward mark as moved again in race 3 catching Jack and Lewis out as they sailed up the right hand side of the course into a wind shadow pushing them down the fleet. Michael and George were the first Feva around the mark and sailed fast to gain their best placing of 14th. Megan sailed her best race getting clear wind and never looking back to get a joint 4th place in the Gold fleet placing her 6th overall. Alex also had his best result too beating many Gold fleet competitors to get a creditable 3rd in the Silver fleet. Millie sailed to her second bullet in the Silver fleet to take the overall Silver fleet regatta win.

The final results were:

Gold Fleet:

1 st	Oliver Maclean	Midland SC	Solo
2 nd	William Moss	Barnt Green	Optimist
3 rd	George Sunderland	Olton Mere	Laser Radial

Silver Fleet:

1 st	Millie Hardiman	Bartley SC	RS Tera
2 nd	Will Cowley	Midland SC	Optimist
3 rd	Jem Perry	Olton Mere	RS Tera

Thanks to all the participants and their parents who helped make the day enjoyable and fun for sailors and spectators alike. Although these regattas are arranged as a competition the overall winner is always going to be junior / youth sailing – it was just fantastic to see so many youngsters participating and enjoying the sport!



Megan Pulls ahead at the windward mark



Lunch!



Michael and George preparing to gybe...



Jack and Lewis in pursuit of Millie



Sean and Cecily give a Topper room at the mark



Megan hot on the heels of Sean and Cecily



Millie speeds towards the mark



Alex with a Topper in his sights



The Fevas in a drag race to buoy number 4



Michael and George get ready for the hoist as Millie tries to catch a laser...!