

Itchenor SC v Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society Sailed in Swallows on Sunday 1st June 2008

A windless Chichester Harbour greeted the visiting Society team on arrival. Nevertheless the teams took to the water and drifted down harbour on the tide; having waited in vain for the wind, everyone was towed home for an early lunch. After an excellent cold buffet, a light breeze was established and battle commenced.

Itchenor made a great start in race 1 and quickly gained a commanding 1,2 position leaving Chris Fox to disrupt the Society sailors. Race 2 was worse for the Society when Paul Stainsby parked on the mud and their chances evaporated. 2-0 to Itchenor. Race 3 brought a little less wind and a big improvement for the Society when Andrew Reid and Hugh Ashton sailed clear and, on a longish run against the tide, managed to keep Simon Slater at bay. 2-1.

The deciding race 4 was very closely fought. Paul Stainsby established a clear lead with Itchenor boats second and third. Peter Andreae was fourth but last place was being fiercely contested between Chris Fox for Itchenor and Ellen Milner for the Society, sailing a Swallow for the first time. On the second beat, Paul gave up 1st place to try and establish a winning 2,3,4 combination for the Society. This plan was thwarted by some dogged sailing by Carolyn Brigg, ably advised by Simon Slater, who refused to be intimidated by the Society's team race experts. Also Chris finally got the better of Ellen after sailing her some way to leeward of the final leeward mark. 3-1.

Our thanks to Mark and Rachael Struckett who provided the race officer duties for the day.

FINAL SCORE

Itchenor SC: 3 wins, Oxford & Cambridge SS: 1 win.

Itchenor win the prestigious Stewart Morris Trophy.

TEAMS

O&CSS: Andrew Reid, Peter Andreae, Hugh Ashton, Ellen Milner, Roger Palmer, Paul Stainsby.

Itchenor: Richard Thompson, Carolyn Brigg, Charles Fisher, Chris Fox, John Houghton, Simon Slater.