

Island Sailing Club
Red Funnel Keelboat Weekend
8th & 9th May 2010
REPORT

The first weekend of the 2010 Red Funnel Cowes Keelboat Championship was hosted by the Island Sailing Club. On a cold, grey, damp Saturday, 6 Etechells, 10 Darings, 5 Dragons and 5 XODs came to the start line. Race officer Willie Sanderson set a 1.2 mile standard windward-leeward course for all fleets. The Etechells were tightly bunched at the half way point and with little change of order, Arbitrator led Freelance home by 33 seconds with Stampede third. The Darings finished within 6 minutes of each other with Defender first by more than a minute from Darius with Destroyer a further minute behind in third. Njord led the Dragons round finishing first, followed by Supremacy and Ecstasy. The XODs were very spread out after a long race with 13 minutes between winner Merlin and the last boat. Myrtle was second and Rachal third.

In the second race, all the Etechells finished within 2 minutes of each other. Freelance just pipped Sail No 1297 and Stampede to take line honours. Defender again led the Darings home with Ding Dong two minutes behind and Decoy a further minute behind in third. Ecstatic showed the Dragons the way with Supremacy second and Njord third. In a shortened XOD course Myrtle beat Merlin and Aora.

Conditions on Sunday were similar with a cold wind from the NE of Force 3. In Race 3, Arbitrator had another win to beat 1297 and Stampede in the Etechells. Of the 8 Darings, Defender won again this time with Dashing second and Destroyer third. The first Dragon home was Ecstatic followed by Njord and Supremacy while the 5 XODSs were led home by Myrtle with Merlin second and Rachal, who was to retire after finishing third. Third place went to Aora.

The last race of the weekend for the Etechells saw a thrilling finish between Arbitrator and 1297 with the latter taking line honours by 9 seconds. Stampede was, again, third. Defender completed a clean sweep for the weekend finishing well ahead of Dynamite and Destroyer in the Darings. Njord got the better of Ecstatic with Supremacy third in the Dragons while Myrtle beat Merlin for the third time in the XOD class with Aora third.