

## **Thames Inter-Match Shield - Saturday 22nd July 2017**

'Twas on a Saturday morning that the much-awaited Thames Inter-Shield Match was finally begun. Dorchester Sailing Club were the kind hosts, laying on OOD, safety crew and a friendly welcome. (They we're also kind enough to lend a top section for a Laser mast when ours had been left at Henley!). Six boats and accompanying sailors from Abingdon Sailing Club also joined us for the three-way competition.

The changeable weather made for interesting sailing conditions ranging from beautifully sunny to a breezy wind finishing with a torrential downpour - all in one race! There was a slight change to the scheduled racing with only one race occurring before an early lunch followed by three races in rapid succession, in ever-decreasing wind.

Tim Haigh in the Enterprise, crewed by the ever-enthusiastic Peta Bowyer, took best-placed boat from Henley in all 4 races. Roux Kerr had a great first race finishing only one point behind his dad, Graeme. Pip was also going well until a technical fault with his Topper meant he had to retire.

As there were only 4 boats from Henley, the scoring was amended to score the top 4 boats from each club. The home advantage of Dorchester was evident in the first couple of races but the visiting teams were catching noticeably - and even starting to overtake in the final two races! All credit to the mustered team from Henley who raced stoically to the very end. With a little more experience, we would be a force to be reckoned with!

Presentations with tea and cake ended an enjoyable day. It was agreed between all three clubs that it was a date that should be put in the sailing calendar for next year - this time at Abbey Sailing Club.



Battling for position at the start of the race.



Dad vs son rounding one of the buoys.



The Henley Sailing Club crew.



Henley Sailing Club's Sailing Secretary passing over the trophy to Dorchester Sailing Club.