

Cadet Week 2004

The week started with cooler weather and heated up significantly each day along with the competition for the variety of fleets. Everyone partook with endless enthusiasm and played their part in making this a fabulous week, we all made new friends with superb interaction of all ages from our small Oppie sailors to the senior topper sailors and all learnt something new, even if that only be how to pack away a boat or two..!

Each day saw some exciting racing in light winds with the top positions changing frequently throughout the week. The Topper Senior's gave us inspiration as they competed for the top places and the younger Topper sailors learnt loads from being able to watch such an experienced fleet race. 9 Pico's battled it out with helm & crew, my thanks to James Bovington for jumping in as extra crew to make up numbers in addition to racing with the Toppers. Our Oppie Sailors raced well, improving dramatically in competence as the week progressed in their sailing as well as their race skills. Our newest fleet this year was the 8 Taz's and all the helms enjoyed taking part in these new boats, even our senior sailors wanted to play at the end of the day..!

Throughout each day a selection of land games were set up to keep everyone occupied. An enormous thank you to the parents who manned these throughout the week and kept a record of all the scores. High scores for Quoits and Pick-a-Stick grew daily and Boat Racing along 2 lengths of gutter was continually fought for. All were challenged to identify a selection of **MARLOW Ropes**, along with their catalogue to help. This proved a test for even those with good boat knowledge and held a prize of quality **MARLOW** rope for the winner.

Team games at lunchtime were lots of fun and only occasionally broke into total chaos - no sorry always!! Apart from Monday all the lunchtime games involved getting wet and thanks to the hard work of Colin Robinson & Steve Knevett we finished the week with Dragon Boat Racing - and they didn't sink..!!

We rounded the week off with a delicious BBQ thanks to Mr Coevet and held the prize giving in the sunshine that we had become accustomed to each day. Along with the shields and awards for sailing a range of other awards were given for continued improvement, trying hard and taking part. A Huge thank you to Yachts & Yachting for their sponsorship of prizes and to **MARLOW Ropes** for sponsoring us with an enormous range of high quality ropes and twine.

The entire week ran very smoothly and all of this would not have been possible without the time and energy from so many people, so whether you were making tea in the galley, helping with safety boats, recording the endless results or any other job, a gigantic **THANK YOU** from me - without your support this week would not have happened - hope I can put you down to be with us again in 2005 providing a superb week of challenge and fun for so many kids. I hope all those who took part enjoyed it and will continue to take up the challenge of racing, representing our club to such a high standard.

Sharon Allen
Youth Sailing Co-ordinator