



*Edition: Southport  
Special 2010*



**Ollie and  
John giving it  
what for at  
Southport.**



## Southport Special 2010

The Southport Report, ably crafted by our roving reporter Mark Thompson, was so comprehensive and well produced we decided to produce a one off Newsletter for your enjoyment, instead of a few lines in the usual newsletter, which will be out shortly.

Friday evening saw the first wave of migration from Rotherham to Southport, with Garry Chambers leading the stampede armed with our very own fully loaded Ent. Having grabbed the best tent pitch, it was off to Pizza Hut to pile on the carbs for the endurance test to come; no not the racing but the deafening disco and all night high jinks in the beer tent. Meanwhile down came the rain as the rest of the team gradually arrived to pitch.

Saturday morning promised much especially when the cavalry arrived in the form of Keith Bailey to bolster the experienced helms as the autumnal weather gradually turned more blustery. The excitement rose as Simon Fleetwood and Mark Slack took to the water for the start, and we were off with aplomb, immediately losing 11 places and dropping from last year's finish of 49 to 60<sup>th</sup>. Muttering something about the distraction of a football match, Simon and Mark retreated to the safety of Southport FC to watch the mighty Mansfield triumph, and were last clocked celebrating in some style in a local hostelry.

Back on the pond it was Alan and Janet Knott to the rescue. No; not in person but in the form of son Gary, who loyally represented the Knott sailing dynasty by volunteering his services to the club; the fact that this saved him the £10 quid that Pennine were charging their team to sail had nothing, of course, to do with it.

Over two one hour stints Gary hauled us back to respectability, and then it was back to the team with stints from Keith and Ollie Thompson, Garry and Ross Allen, and Michael Bell and John Bailey maintaining our position in the field.

With the onset of dusk, things got exciting. Keith was in the middle of a second stint with Matt Chambers when all hell broke loose as a series of south westerly squalls pushed through off the Irish Sea causing chaos at the windward mark.





Plotting a course around the casualties Keith and Matt battled through some terrible conditions to push us on up the field, before kindly washing the sails on the final gybe.

Jess Foster and Chris Cooper , 'fresh' from his delayed flight back from Spain earlier in the afternoon, bravely took the next session launching into horrendous conditions of squally rain; whilst the junior squad bravely disappeared off to Nando's for the rest of the evening.

Suitably stuffed, Ed Bailey and Josh Bennett returned to take their first stint on the water at 10 pm and steered us through gradually improving conditions until midnight, before handing over to Michael and John for the nightmare midnight to 2.00 am slot. Rumour has it that Simon and Mark had returned from the pub by now.

With Alison stoically manning the rota on an increasingly deserted quayside, Chris was dragged out of bed again to helm the 2.00 am to 4.00 am slot, admirably supported by the tireless Jess, suitably adorned with a prize winning range of warm headgear. The impressive efforts of all the teams had by now hauled us up to 38<sup>th</sup> and things were getting exciting, well they were for the four of us still standing.

Re-enter Simon Fleetwood, suitably re hydrated, and Ollie , fresh from 3 hours kip to take the marathon dawn slot, ploughing on in steady conditions for over three hours, before Ollie was so desperate for the loo that the sleeping babes that were Ed and Josh had to be rudely awakened to launch again. Simon and Ollie retired for well-earned bacon butties having pushed us up to 37<sup>th</sup>, nosing in front of Hoylake SC.

Ed and Josh pushed on without breakfast until 8 am, maintaining 37<sup>th</sup>, handing over to Garry and Ross to safely navigate through to 9.45 am, and impressively representing the club in the ladies race.

Back to Ed who along with Chris went out again to take us through to 10.45 am in freshening winds, and although we'd slipped slightly to 39<sup>th</sup> this was solely down to the increasing frequency of change over's.

With the full team assembled on the quayside Ollie and John Bailey launched into increasingly blustery conditions to finish the job, and after an hour and a quarter battling the gusts on both the windward and leeward marks , and with raised fists, they were cheered over the line in 39<sup>th</sup>, a respectable ten places higher than last year, with our local rivals Ulley coming in at 49th.

Well done to all competitors, there were some brave, tired guys and girls out there all doing their best for the club.

Onwards and upwards for next year!!!

## Rotherham Sailing Club

Carver Way, Harthill,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire  
S26 7XB

[www.rotherhamsailingclub.org.uk](http://www.rotherhamsailingclub.org.uk)

*If you have an article or news that could go in the newsletter send it to [newsletter@rotherhamsailingclub.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@rotherhamsailingclub.org.uk)*