

## NSSA Regatta, Bridlington – 2009

The week long NSSA (National School Sailing Association) Regatta is the high point of our youth sailing calendar. It alternates between inland and coastal venues, up and down the country. Competitors sail for county or regional teams. Ulley sailors compete under the Yorkshire and Humberside flag, sailing with their friends (and rivals) from the YHYSA Travellers Series.

This year's event was hosted by the Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club at their dinghy centre just south of Bridlington and attracted around 225 sailors, competing in 17 county/regional teams. Everyone camped in a large field, yards from the sandy beach, with easy access to showers, toilets and drying rooms. A big marquee housed the on-site catering and doubled as dining room, social and briefing area (and disco venue on Friday night). 5-a-side and beach volleyball were organised by representatives from the local council.

Legendary sailing coach, Jim Saltonstall (NSSA President), was out on the water every day filming the action. He then used the video footage in his evening debriefing/coaching sessions.

Q. How do you make a marquee full of excitable young sailors keep quiet and pay attention?

A. Call for Jim Saltonstall.

To give an idea of the scale of the regatta operation, 30 high performance ribs were on call for safety/rescue duties.

Racing took place over 4 days, boats being split into fleets as follows:

Topper	57 boats
Laser Standard	12
Laser Radial	40
Fast Handicap	24
Slow Handicap	22
Rookie Fleet	39

Conditions were demanding throughout most of the week with frequent Force 5 winds, gusting 6 and choppy seas. Sailing was cancelled on Wednesday due to high winds and heavy rain. Friday (last day) was fine and sunny, with near ideal sea sailing conditions.

Our sailors did us proud once again, with final results as follows:

Matt Velamail	3 <sup>rd</sup> Laser Standard
Tim Brownell	10 <sup>th</sup> Laser Standard
Jonathan Holt	9 <sup>th</sup> Laser Radial
Max Nicholson	23 <sup>rd</sup> Laser Radial
James Morley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fast Handicap (Sailing RS 200 with Pippa Fletcher from Scaling Dam)

Max suffered a broken mast part way through the week and had to retire. At this point, he was lying 14th in the Laser Radial Fleet.

Individual results were then collated to give team results.

Yorkshire and Humberside finished 3rd from 17 teams – a great result, to which Ulley sailors made a major contribution.

Many thanks to some other USC members who spent the week at Brid:

Steve Butler, Alan Ward and Dave Staniforth who were all part of the on-water Race Management Team and John Dowd who was the Regatta Secretary. (John is also NSSA Treasurer.)

A special thank you to Robin Wright (Ollie's dad) from Rotherham SC, who took on the role of Yorkshire and Humberside Team Manager.