

LRSCA Championships 2025

Hosted by Keyhaven YC over the weekend 6th/7th September

Time and tide wait for no one, and thus it was an early start for the 30 Scows and 44 Scowers gathered in Keyhaven. In his 9am briefing, Race Officer Cy Grisley promised us wild weather and it was that and the great organisation and hospitality of the home team that dominate my memories of this event.

The Saturday wind was fresh from the SE, and due to strengthen, which it did. The RO recorded 23 knots, but we thought it more like 30, and as the ebb set in, the steep Scow-sinking seas at the windward mark were spectacular. For us, survival became paramount. Many didn't, the rescue RIBs were busy, and only two thirds of the fleet completed a shortened third race. Shortened, we were told, because the Committee launch was beginning to roll uncomfortably, and not because of near chaos on the race course!

The courses set were triangle, sausage, triangle and that day we completed three races and in total 8 laps. The double handers were dominated by a trio... helms Tom Hebbert, Catherine Maguire, Chris Cecil-Wright and their crews. Tom won the day, but only just, and possibly because he flew a spinnaker to good effect, particularly on both reaching legs. Single handers were led by the Claridges, Robert and Maria, but Master John Chaundy was snapping at their heels.

Sunday brought a mix of weather. We had sun and rain. The wind started easterly, fresh and gusty, but it tracked around to the South and strangely by the end had died to almost nothing. We had two good races, again using triangle, sausage, triangle. In the single handers, the Claridges continued their dominance, with Robert winning all races by a wide margin. Tom Hebbert had a new crew and only completed one race, thereby dropping to third. Catherine had two bullets and ended on equal points with Chris. She became our Champion on countback with Chris in second.

Back ashore, it was soon time for the traditional tea provided by LRSCA members and for our President Mary Montagu-Scott to present the trophies and prizes.

A very well organised event with trolley dollies much appreciated. Thank you Keyhaven.

And the results...

Double handers: 1st Catherine Maguire and Karl Thorne, 2nd Chris and Grace Cecil-Wright, 3rd Tom Hebbert and Mariantha Littlejohn (but daughter Ava on Sunday)

Masters (over 70s) Jeremy & Max Vines

Single handers: 1st Robert Claridge, 2nd Maria Claridge, 3rd and Masters John Chaundy

JVines 11/09/25