

Race Report – Noble Marine Supernova Traveller Series 2021

at Bowmoor Sailing Club on Saturday 24th July

Bowmoor SC welcomed 17 sailors to their first open event since relaxation of Covid19 rules the week before. The forecast for thunder, torrential rain and 20+ knot gusts may have put off a few people, but the reality was better with a 10-knot breeze gusting to 17 knots fluctuating between ENE and Northerly, not the easiest of directions for Bowmoor.

Race one got under way after a short delay for start line adjustment, with Young (Cotswold), Gibson (Bartley) and Ward (Cotswold) leading the way, with the pin end favoured. With the wind direction continuing to vary, especially in the gusts, there was plenty for the rest of the fleet to gain (or lose) on the two windward legs. The reaching legs gave opportunity for planing in the stronger gusts resulting in more gains for those who could 'catch and hold on'. After 40 minutes of close racing with some place changes throughout the fleet, it was still Young, Gibson and Ward at the finish followed by Undrell (Cotswold), Johnson (Cotswold) and Hobbs (Bowmoor).

Race two was back-to-back after a minor course change to combat the ever-shifting wind direction, which also made for a tricky start. Again, it was the pin end that paid off with mostly Team Cotswold gaining the advantage. With the wind as shifty as ever there were plenty of position changes mid-fleet. By the finish it was the same trio as R1 but in a different order – Ward, Young and Gibson followed by Johnson, Hobbs and Undrell.

Lunch was swiftly served in the clubhouse which gave competitors the chance to catch up with old friends and a couple of new faces to the Supernova fleet.

Back on the water by 2.00pm, the Race Officer needed to make further course changes but Race three was soon under way, with a recall of at least one boat OCS at the pin end. No one returned to re-start so there was a feeling of unease in the fleet on the first leg. This gave some of the mid-fleet helms an opportunity to get ahead at the windward mark. Naturally the top trio fought back, the wind held on long enough for a closely contested 45-minute race. At the finish line it was once again predominately Cotswold sailors, but the actual result did not become clear until reaching the shore. Two boats had been OCS, Young (Cotswold) and Gibson (Bartley) so the result of race 3 was Ward, Johnson and Hobbs followed by Smith (Bowmoor), Bleasdale (Girton) and Undrell (Cotswold).

Prizes were presented in the Clubhouse by Bowmoor's Commodore, Tom Whittingham, for:

Overall – First place:	Steve Ward	Cotswold S C
Second:	Gavin Young	Cotswold S C
Third:	Mike Gibson	Bartley S C

First Veteran: Steve Johnson Cotswold S C
First Master: Chris Hobbs Bowmoor S C
First Mark 1: Claire Reece Davies (SN433) Bowmoor S C

Votes of thanks were given to Dave Lynall and his race team, the rescue crew, Hackett's catering and all those who helped to return the clubhouse to 'normal' in time for the event.

Report written by Brian Smith - Fleet Captain, Bowmoor