

Last Race Cup 2010	
Rank	Helm/Crew
1	Stuart Hood
2	Dave Metcalfe
3	Jeremy Wood
4	Dave and Sheila Berger
5	Mike Mooney
6	Paul Ellwood
7	Steve Sharpe
8	Chris bell and Rob Froud
9	Pip Warner
10	Tony Legg
11	Hannah Hood
12	Ernie Linguard
The following also took part but placings were not noted:	Brian Joyce & Sam Warner, Mike Knight, Natalie Hood and Rob Parnaby.

Sunday 31st October - Last sail of the season, and the clocks went back!

The day started with so little wind you could have shaved in the reflection on the Mere (well I wouldn't have of course! and neither would Ernie - who arrived for the afternoon race sporting a beard - for the authentic "old salt" look).

There were 11 boats that had decided to have a morning race "4thehelluvit" - appropriate to Halloween no doubt. There were to be no prizes, and it counted towards no series, but as the wind filled in, principally from the east, with a touch of northerly to it, the fleet set off in the classic staggered-start of the now-familiar pursuit. Jeremy and Dave Metcalfe vied in the early stages for the lead. There was never to be any danger of planing reaches this morning (or indeed much in the afternoon either), and once the Albacore got under way, the chase was on! Pip (Blaze) close behind, starting with Stuart (Phantom) along with a late-starting Tony Legg caused the commodore to stay alert! Steve and Andy in the Osprey never really got a look in as their first would-be spinnaker leg provided too little wind to fill that sail, though they carved their way forwards to get quite close to the front pack.

A long first round provided some interesting sport around #6 as is common when

there is a certain amount of N to the breeze. Making our way from #5 at the west end of the Mere, towards #9, it surely should have paid to make for the south shore, for that oh-so-tempting lifting bend that the edge of the Mere often provides. However those further back found more breeze, and a lift with it, in the middle of the Mere, to the extent that Paul in his Firefly at one point was within striking distance of Dave M (who was lead boat at that time). Pip was right up there too. Now that's really encouraging to see! However places can be won and lost rapidly where there are shifts to be caught (or missed), and a few well-chosen short tacks on the shifts towards the east of the lake changed the order yet again.

With the time all but up, following the first short lap, Dave M found the commodore to be snapping at his heels, with Jeremy close behind in third place. With just 90 seconds to go, the leading 3 boats were at #8, and the rules of the race dictated these three needed to head for #7 to settle the race. In these light airs, the extra weight of the Albacore is more than compensated for by its extra waterline length (and hence theoretically higher displacement hull-speed) and greater sail area. Hence the Streaker was to be no match for the 50+ year old Uffa Fox Albacore design. Line honours then to the Albacore followed by (2) Dave Metcalfe, (3) Jeremy Wood, (4) Hannah Hood, (5) Pip Warner. Other competitors with no placings noted: Tony Legg, Paul Ellwood, Steve Sharpe & Andy Gilding, Mike Knight, Stuart Hood and Brian Joyce & Sam Warner in this "Penny" (penultimate) race.

The very last race of 2010 season was sailed in a nice bit of a F2 and a little bit of breeze. 16 boats arrived, and what a difference from last year (when there were gusts recorded of over 40 mph). All got away cleanly at their respective starts, and it was great to see Brian Joyce, helming Sammy's Laser 2 with Sammy as crew actually participating in a pursuit race! - Brian has in the past been heard to say he couldn't understand the point of them! Stuart, solo in his Firefly led from the off and was uncatchable for the rest of the race, though Dave M did get close a few times. Jeremy was right up there too for the whole race, and the faster boats, starting later did not really get a look in, though valiant efforts were made by many. A good call by Jeremy (on a point of the rules regarding rights of way within the "zone" of 2 boats-lengths from the mark) caused the over eager, "barging at the mark" Commodore to take the mandatory 720 penalty and the finishing order, later established by an ad-hoc committee was to be:

First: Stuart Hood, (2) Dave Metcalfe, (3) Jeremy Wood, (4) Dave & Sheila Berger, (5) Mike Mooney, (6) Paul Ellwood, (7) Steve Sharp, (8) Chris Bell & Rob Froud, (9) Pip Warner, (10) Tony Legg, (11) Hannah Hood, (12) Ernie Linguard and the following also took part but placings were not noted: Brian Joyce & Sam Warner, Mike Knight, Natalie Hood and Rob Parnaby.

After the race the changing rooms were speedily dismantled under the direction of our Land Bosun, Charlie Cartwright, ably assisted by those present who had sailed, joined by Howard and Bill Meson and some whom I'm sure I will have inadvertently omitted. Many thanks to al, and a fitting end to a great season - now how to keep fit for next season?

Why not join us for cycling on Sundays! - first one will be next Sunday, 7th November meet at 10.30 am at the Mere for a 20 miler or so at a gentle pace! (Sheila and I'll be on the tandem so we'll probably be tail-enders!).

Dave Berger

See the Gallery [here](#)