

Sol National Championships '91 Mumbles

August 17-22, 1991

Hey, amigos, those Lasers sure knows how to have a good time! All those gringos sailing, and singing, and drinking tequila and Sol beer. Man, Mumbles has never got through so many limes in its history! Listen, I tell you all about it.

There was over 200 boats, from all over the place, including Russia, America and Australia, but no-one from Mexico (it no hot enough for them), and those Senoras at the Club welcomed them all with food and Sol beer and singing. Every day, the whole lot went out to see the sights of Swansea Bay, and there was real cool racing.

That first day, there was notta lotta wind, and some of them got thrown out of the race by those Judges. They had to have several tries to start the race, but once it got going it was a really close race around these huge bottles of Sol. Funny, they called them boys as well, but I call them bottles. I think it must be because they call other races "round the cans", but that must be another brand of beer! Hamish Pepper the kiwi just managed to get back first, then Stuart Hudson, then Sasha Zelenovski from Russia, then the others so close together it was a real job to work out who was where at times.

The second day they had two races, very long, to make up for losing one the day before. In the morning Keith Videlo kept ahead of Steve 'Esteban' Rich, but in the afternoon that Esteban get back in front all the way round, and Videlo just behind him. Hey, it sure looks pretty to see all those boats going round and

round in a great long line. Hamish and Ricardo Stenhouse came next in the races.

Third day, fourth race, it look like a film. Esteban leading Videlo again. The only way I know it's different is Paul Weedon in third. Still some naughty boys doing the rock and roll, but they seen by the Judges and thrown out.

Wednesday there is more wind, and all the way round the Aussies are leading, with the pack trying to catch them. Just at the finish Ricardo, he catch one and win, but Aussie Geoff Wood stay second, and Esteban, he catch up the other one and come third. Now the real fun starts. Everyone has been very good all day, nobody thrown out by the judges, so we have a real Mexican party! Chilli, tequila, Sol, and karaoke. Man, those gringos can sail very good but sing very bad! Everyone had real good time.

Last day, everyone very tense but quiet, like they have hangover. Everyone go out, funny wind all over the place, like it have hangover! Again and again they try to start race, every time no good. Then it is too late to start and everyone comes home.

That last evening we have big fiesta in huge Brangwyn Hall, with these huge pictures of Mexican (I think) sunbathers on the wall, very big, very grand! Everybody happy, say mucho thankyou, well done everyone! Really good time, thankyou Sol!

Brigitta Hurn

Race Winners:

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| Practice Race | Rich Stenhouse |
| Race 1 | Hamish Pepper |
| Race 2 | Keith Videlo |
| Race 3 | Steve Rich |
| Race 4 | Steve Rich |
| Race 5 | Rich Stenhouse |

Special Categories

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| First Lady: | Jacqueline Ellis |
| First Youth: | Andrew Snell |
| Master overall: | Keith Wilkins |
| Apprentice Master: | David Binding |
| Master: | Keith Wilkins |
| Grand Master: | Gordon Belcher |

Overall Results

1. STEVE RICH Tenby & Neyland SCs
2. HAMISH PEPPER Murray Bay, N.Z.
3. RICH STENHOUSE S. Windermere
4. KEITH VIDELO Stokes Bay SC
5. MARK LITTLEJOHN Lancing SC
6. STUART HUDSON Tees SC
7. ALAN DAVIS Barclays Bank SC
8. MICHAEL BUDD Leigh & Lowton



Rounding one of the Bottles at Mumbles

Photo : N. Vick

Brigid's View

The Nationals are over for another year, and now is the time to reflect on Mumbles 1991. It's amazing the different things that you get asked in the Race Office! I found one young lady a boat, one young lad a radial rig, fought the fax all week (how did I know that hurricanes and thunderstorms were stopping faxes all over the country - I thought it was me!) I demanded money without menaces, and everyone was very good about paying their Tally Dues for the RNLI. The computer program on the UKLA computer dealt admirably with the results all week, and apart from panicking all weekend about not having a printer, the Club lent me theirs, and despite keen competitors stealing the printouts off the notice board, I was able to keep everyone informed of their results. There were relatively few protests, and the USSR sorted out their problems in time for our Bielorrussian friends to go home happy. Which is more than young Daniel was when he discovered his boat missing - had it been stolen? I didn't think so, and was proved right when Daniel discovered Mike Bean's boat left - his brand new boat had gone to Barcelona, and Mike's boat left behind! Well, all Lasers look the same, don't they?