

DINGHY RACING at Newburgh Sailing Club



Dinghy racing

Is one of the most popular forms of dinghy sailing, and it contributes to the development of sailing skills as well as to improvements in dinghy and sail construction and design. Those shared challenges, and the variability of the weather and sea can make dinghy sailing and racing an exciting, fascinating and rewarding recreational sport: physically, mentally, and in terms of personal relationships with other crew member(s), competitors, club members and organizers.

Newburgh Sailing Club enjoys competitive sailing with one of the largest Solo dinghy fleets in Scotland, this year (2009) will see several newly built Winder hybrid Solo's take to the water for the first time, expanding the fleet even further. The Solo is of particular interest because as the name suggests it is a solo manned boat. Without the need for a crew it comes down to the skills of the individual when racing other boats in the fleet.



Ben Ledi

Pictured left are some of the 21 Solo's that attended the Closed Scottish Championship, the '*Ben Ledi*' which was hosted by this club on the 17th May 2008.

Of course sailing in a championship is a challenge in itself and it is every bit as spectacular for the observer on the shore, particularly when so many boats are fighting for the 'sweet spot', but that said it is all part of the fun and excitement of racing, real adrenaline pumping stuff.

Gold and Silver

The club operates a division within the fleet for Gold and Silver. Gold fleet boats having the more experienced and fast helms, while the Silver fleet tends to have more inexperienced helms which tends to 'level' the field somewhat.

Style

The Solo although fairly small in stature is not to be underestimated. It is a dinghy with beautiful flowing lines and has an almost sculptured look to it. It is also no slouch on the water having excellent acceleration and agility, with the ability to plane very easily. Contempt for the Solo will see the unwary helmsman having an early bath!. Still the Solo is a real pleasure to sail, once one gets to grips with the characteristics it has on the water, the grin factor follows on soon.

Advanced training in the solo is simply a matter of asking one of our instructors for some one-on-one training. Our instructors are happy to help and are very accommodating. The picture on the right shows the club Commodore in his solo.

