

WT State Racing Titles report

Round 1 Swansea (1-2 November 2003):

Twelve sailors gathered at Swansea for the first round of the State Racing Titles and were greeted with gusty (10-25 knots), off-shore winds. The first race got under way by 12:30 PM. A simple upwind/downwind course was set with gates at both ends. The start/finish line doubled as the downwind gate. Anthony Perkins had a few problems at the start of the first race and was last to the upwind mark, while Dave Morehead made a good break, leading for the first lap of the two-lap race. Steve Charles, who had been out sailing the course prior to the race, picked the right side of the bay to get the most wind during the second leg and managed to get past Dave and finish in first place. Stewart Gordon took out third, followed by Anthony Perkins who had successfully battled his way back through the fleet.

The second race of the day was held in lighter 8-12 knot winds thanks to a sea-breeze that was trying to push in. Unfortunately the wind was fickle, making getting to that upwind mark all the more difficult. It was a pretty tight duel between the top six sailors, with places changing throughout the race. Dave Morehead managed to scrape in first, after passing Stewart Gordon on the final down-wind run. Anthony Perkins took third, while young Brendon Gordon sailed superbly to place fourth and keep ahead of Steve Charles who finished in fifth. Jack Van Ek placed sixth ahead of Tony Fitzgerald and Fenton Jones. Ian Johnston failed to finish the race, after being right at the front of the fleet after the first lap, due to what can only be called a light-wind-catapult that resulted in the whole front of his Formula board just about disintegrating.

The next day the wind was offshore again and still gusty. The race committee held off setting a course until after lunch, but with little change in the conditions, other than the wind increasing to about 15-20 knots, another upwind/downwind course was finally set. Two races were run. Stewart Gordon sailed really well to put a good lead between himself and the rest of the fleet in the first race. However, on the final downwind leg Stewart got flattened by a strong squall only a few hundred meters from the finish. Meanwhile, Dave Morehead had rounded the top mark and was now fully powered up heading for the finish. Stewart managed to get going again, but just meters away from the finish got flattened again, allowing Dave to take out first place. Stewart drifted across the line to finish second, followed by Anthony Perkins and then Steve Charles in fourth. The final race was held in similar conditions, but with about 30 seconds to go, at the start of the race, a strong squall hit the entire course, making for powered up conditions. The fleet got away cleanly and Dave Morehead took the lead ahead of Steve Charles and both sailors, using 11m sails, kept these positions to the finish. Jack Van Ek sailed solidly to take out third place ahead of Stewart Gordon and Anthony Perkins.

Race results:

	Overall	Round 1 - Swansea (1-2 November 2003)				Points tally	Discard (none)	Overall points
	Race type:	Formula	Formula	Formula	Formula			
	Name	1	2	3	4			
1	Dave Morehead	2	0.75	0.75	0.75	4.25		4.25
2	Stewart Gordon	3	2	2	4	11		11
3	Stephen Charles	0.75	5	4	2	11.75		11.75
4	Anthony Perkins	4	3	3	5	15		15
5	Jack Van Eck	7	6	5	3	21		21
6	Brendon Gordon	8	4	6	6	24		24
7	Fenton Jones	11	8	9	9	37		37
8	Peter Freeman	11	11	9	9	40		40
9	Tony Fitzgerald	6	7	14	14	41		41
10	Ian Johnston	5	11	14	14	44		44
11	Bernt Genssen	14	14	14	14	56		56
12	Stewart McKay	14	14	14	14	56		56
	Starters	10	10	8	8			
	DNF =	11	11	9	9			
	DNS =	14	14	14	14			
	DSQ =	11	11	9	9			

DNF = One point more than the number of competitors that start the race
 DNS = Two points more than the number of competitors that enter that round of the series
 DSQ = One point more than the number of competitors that start the race



Swansea race venue.



Getting ready to race.



Two sailors through the finish 'gate' and heading toward the beach.