



BACK TO BACK WINS FOR THE TEAM COBALT, HOBIE WILDCAT

Luke Yeates and Matthew Humphreys of Team Cobalt take back to back wins in the Formula 18 Traveller Trophy and East Coast piers race.

Worthing TT:

The forecast was for very light and fluky airs with Saturdays racing starting in an 8kt SE breeze. In the first 2 races Team Cobalt took a 3rd and a 2nd and in the last race of the day the wind had eased to a very light 3-4 kts and there were many place changes with Team Cobalt coming out with a race win.

Going into the second day the leader board was very close between the top 3; going into the last race of the day Team Cobalt had to secure a 1st place to win the regatta overall. After a very close battle it came down to the final downwind leg to the finish; the Wildcat opting to take the right hand side of the course and the others taking the left side. The boats met 50m short of the finish, the Team Cobalt Wildcat scraped across the line first to win the race and the event.

East Coast Piers Race:

Probably the longest established long distance race in the country. For twenty two years the East Coast Piers Race has attracted top continental sailors, and development classes, along with the cream of big cat sailors, with race winners including the likes of Reg White and Gavin Colby.

This race is pretty much a straight line blast round the coast of Essex from the Marconi SC in the black water past gates at Bradwell power station, Colne point and Clacton pier with a turning mark at Walton pier then back via the same route in reverse.

08:30 start. The race started with the ebbing tide rushing out of the estuary at 3kts so there was a massive gain to be had by sticking to the deep water channels. It was a downwind start with the forecast of a freshening breeze. Team Cobalt was left covering the following F18's and Tornados when they

ran aground on Thirslet spit which is just covered at high tide. 8 boats got passed whilst they recovered the situation. At Walton pier Team Cobalt were back into contention with a freshening breeze and were able to make some big gains choosing to sail hard left and gradually reeled in the leading F18's by the turning point at Clacton pier. Now it was upwind to the finish, Matt Humphreys comment at the time was "haha now we have a Wildcat nothing can touch us to windward, bye bye F18's" he was right and within minutes the Wildcats super high ratio foils were paying dividends and Team Cobalt were leading and chasing the larger faster boats ahead eventually overtaking most of the Tornados by the finish line to win by a convincing margin on Handicap. It was a good showing for Weston sailing club sailors taking all of the top prizes at the event.

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