

Reports and Results

SPKA meeting - Weekend 28th - 29th April

This turned out to be an excellent weekend, and I hope there was something for everyone in the way of fun and frolics.

It was also a good weekend for membership with three new members signing up on the day, and three others very keen and taking forms for return later.

Saturday was bright sunshine with an offshore wind of 15 mph, and as usual for Scotland we had all four seasons in the afternoon with three heavy hail showers. The XXL hail stones really hurt when nipping along the beach on a reach! Beach conditions were excellent with smooth hard sand close in to the dunes. The day was spent in general activities, with all levels from beginners under instruction, to freestyle tricking and kite-all-terrain boarding. There were also four blowkarts sharing the fun, but with the small wheels they proved no match for the kite-powered.

Sunday dawned damp and somewhat miserable, but as people began to arrive the weather cleared and the sun came out, although there was still a complete lack of wind. Around 1 pm the wind began to come up, this time almost directly on-shore, and with in a short space of time everyone was making long reaches right the way along the smooth sand. By 3 pm there was enough wind to set up a short out-and-back course for the more competitive element to have a go at.

Because we only own three flags at present, a start gate and an one other turn were all we could manage, so it was a reach down the beach, and a reach back again. The course was set in an anti-clockwise direction with the turning mark on the upwind side of the course, just to make things a little more difficult.

The racing was very closely contested.



In the first race Sim and Chris were doing battle at the front, final honours going to Chris. Ross was racing Stuart for third and Ross actually crossed the line ahead of Stuart, but then (ever the Gentleman) he admitted a transgression of rounding the mark the wrong way, which unfortunately earned him a maximum for the race. Bill had problems re-launching his C-quad, and did not finish the race.

In the second race Chris and Sim were again doing battle at the front with Sim taking the honours. Third place was again a close run between Stuart and Ross. This time Ross kept to the correct side of the mark and made it to third. Bill kept it all together with his C-quad to beat Tom. Don't know what happened to Keith and Face-down-Dick, but they were both DNS (did not start).

The third and final race looked the best, with the fleet getting across the line in very close formation - it looked like everyone was getting the hang of the rolling start technique. Chris and Sim were soon out ahead again, while Ross and Stuart were again together for the first two laps, then Stuart lost the edge allowing Dan (a new entry) and Bill to nip through. Face-down-Dick was back in for the first two laps, but then did his trick from which his name comes, and ended up as a DNF (did not finish)

Overall positions were:- First, Sim; Second Chris; Third, Stuart; Fourth, Tom; Fifth, Ross; Sixth, Bill; Seventh equal, Dan and Keith and last but not least in Ninth position, Face-down Dick.



Some of the participants were not SPKA members, so I hope they enjoyed themselves with us, and I hope you will join us in future events.