

John v Thom Round 4 ... Model boats

Who will be the lake's superior?



John gets some steering tips from model boat club secretary Ian Phillips. (PA0645-23b)

MODEL BOATS FACT file

The Bridlington Model Boat Club meets at Broadacres on the first Wednesday of every month, except next month, when they are holding their Christmas meeting. They have 155 members, but at the moment, also have a waiting list to join. The club has been based at Carnaby Lake since 1988, but model boating has taken place in Bridlington since 1936. For more information on the Model Boat Club, log on to www.bridmodelboats.co.uk



Thom gets in some early practice on the lake. (PA0642-36i)

pictures: Paul Atkinson

ROUND 4 in the battle of the Free Press reporters sees John Edwards and Thom Kennedy going head to head racing model boats.

You can read all about the previous rounds on the Bridlington Free Press website www.bridlingtontoday.co.uk



John Edwards and Thom Kennedy with model boat club members. (PA0642-36k)

CHALLENGE 4: Model Powerboat Racing
VENUE: Carnaby Lake
MENTORS: Bridlington Model Powerboat Club secretary Ian Phillips and other club members
THE RESULT: A 2-1 win for John
JOHN V THOM SCORE: 4-0 to John

JOHN v Thom has been making waves this week – by taking to the high seas! Well, not quite, but the boys were testing their sea legs by turning their hands to model powerboat racing. The competition was spread over three disciplines, a slalom on a scale model boat, a model yacht race, and an endurance race with Club 500 mini-motor boats. Clearly, after falling into an early lead, Thom was keen to pick up

victory, and an assured performance in the slalom suggested good things. However, John more than matched him, beating his time by 14 seconds. Thom fought back with a solid win in the yachting, before John clinched victory in the endurance race, despite Thom finishing ahead, because he cut corners on his way round the course. Once again, Thom's gung-ho attitude had let him down. Ian Phillips, the lads' mentor and the

club's secretary, said: "For two absolute beginners they both did excellently. "I was particularly impressed with the slalom. The first time I did that I would not have done it quite so well. "It is all down to hand-eye coordination and anticipation. "When you come up to a buoy, you have to anticipate the turn. "On occasions, Thom had to stop, go back and retake a buoy, and that made the difference."

Thom in deep trouble Plain sailing

Oh. My. Sweet. Mercy.

John is just heaping injustice upon injustice upon insult upon injury.

Having been told by all and sundry that, as I thought, I was done up on the piano competition, John then comes along and hijacks the boats.

How I can beat him in the yachting, not hit a single buoy in the slalom, finish ahead of him in the endurance and still lose, is spirit-crushing.

Right, so maybe he did also miss the buoys, and maybe I did cut a couple of tiny little corners on the endurance, but I still feel I have the right to spit out my dummy.

Of course, it didn't help in the slalom that my boat broke down half way through the race, even if I did have a paltry 20 seconds knocked off my time for the 40 seconds of inconvenience.

In the yachting, I literally and metaphorically sailed past him, waving joyously as he flailed along the last length.

Then, in the Club 500, I spent the whole race imagining I was waving to him from the stern of my boat.

Maybe I should have spent more time steering round the buoys, and less clinking imaginary champagne and modelling my imaginary sailor's hat as I zipped round the course.

But, knowing that I was to lose a lap for steering discrepancies, I trundled over the line, dispirited and needlessly beaten.

I know this is becoming a familiar cry, but on any other day, I would have won. John isn't quite riding on a crest of a wave – but he is definitely riding his luck.

The tide is going to turn.



Thom, before his hopes were sunk. (PA0645-23f)

HE RECKONS he is from the tough North East, but he seems more like a Southern Softie to me.

Before we set off, Thom acted like a big jessie by insisting he went home to get his gloves, hat and scarf. Aww bless.

With him toggled up like he was going on an Arctic expedition, we headed down to the lake at Carnaby, which really is a hidden gem of a place. You would never believe there was somewhere which hosted national championships tucked away behind factories on the industrial estate.

Carrying a 3-0 lead into this challenge, the pressure was off and this was a chance to enjoy myself. All of the activities have prompted a few jealous looks from colleagues in the Free Press office, but this one really was something which people wanted to swap places with us for.

There was not much time to practice any of the three disciplines, it really was a case of being thrown in at the deep end. And worryingly Thom seemed to be taking to the controls like a duck to water. His dozens of wasted nights at home playing silly games on the Playstation was clearly paying dividends.

I won the toss for the first challenge and told Thom to go first. He was good, avoiding all the obstacles, and clearly impressing the experts from the club. I did well too, but the result was kept secret from us until the end.

Next up was yachting, which was hard, I never really got to grips with it. Thom got off to a flying start, I was always playing catch-up and he was a worthy winner. By now, I was regretting the decision not to bring my gloves, but I was battling on.

Then came the real fun. The nippy, zippy Club 500 boats, which tear around the lake at 15mph, although it does seem much faster. In the end, Thom made it easy for me. His impetuous streak got the better of him again. He tried to do things too quickly, missed three buoys out and paid the penalty.

Victory was mine again and Thom had hit new depths. He is really getting quite cross about his string of defeats but there's no way I'm taking it easy on him. Bring on the next challenge.



John – feeling buoyant. (PA0642-36h)

You can suggest challenges by sending a text starting BFPEDITOR followed by a space, your challenge idea and name, to 84070, or by e-mailing newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk