

The Junior team handily dusted off the Seniors in a hotly contested series of ten races conducted in 420s in sparkling 10 to 12 knot breezes.

The Junior Team consisted of Andrew Glidden and Sam Creighton plus Mimi Leggett and Andy Creighton. The Senior Team consisted of two family boats, Mory and Sarah Creighton and Tony and Antonia Leggett. Scheduling conflicts with Marblehead Race Week kept down the number of Seniors, while the Falmouth Regatta drew off much of the Junior talent. Nevertheless, the two-on-two format led to very exciting team racing as either team needed to win first place and force one opponent into last place to secure a victory.

After a brief chalk talk to go over the rules (team racing rules are very different from the normal rules, making for very interesting tactical maneuvers throughout the race) the teams headed out to the cove into a rather uninspiring Southwesterly.

Shortly after Principal Race Officer Steve Hall set the three marks and took up position on the starting line, a breeze began to build, and Steve whistled for the first of eight Triangle courses. The Juniors got a jump in the first race with a “1,2” finish, but for the next three races, and as the Seniors settled into their tactics, the Juniors were unable to win another victory. Tactics were extremely tricky at the weather and reach marks as the Seniors tried to stall the opposition and gain position. For three straight races, the Seniors managed to either have a first place finish, or put a Junior into last place so as to score a tie. However, in the next four races, the Juniors managed to win two pairs in two races, and therefore achieve three wins to one in the first series.

The race committee called for the final two races to be Triangle – Windward – Leeward courses. Here, the Juniors’ familiarity with the 420s and their increasing aggressiveness, combined with the Seniors’ gradual fatigue (it was eight races after all), resulted in two straight wins. The 420s became lively and difficult to handle on the dead down wind legs, with a few near capsizes, as the winds continued to build. Speeds increased, making for hazardous mark roundings hazardous, but allowing for exciting downwind planning. By the end of the final race, the Seniors graciously admitted defeat and decided to head back to the Club for the Sunday Social.

The spirited racing convinced everyone that Team Racing is much more fun than fleet racing because of the much closer tactical positioning, the more frequent starts and mark roundings, and the larger opportunities to use the racing rules to advantage. We are all looking forward to next year with the same multi-race format, but with a greater crowd and three or four boat teams.