

## **2025 William Bow Trophy Regatta in DF95's, Barshaw Pond, Paisley, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Report by David Smith

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Sixteen DF95 Skippers representing four MYA Scottish District Clubs came together at Barshaw Park, Paisley, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to compete for the William Bow Trophy in a regatta organised by Paisley MYC to celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Model Yacht Pond, their much-appreciated home water. Half of the cost of constructing the Pond was provided by the Government as unemployment relief with the balance contributed by Paisley shipbuilder and public benefactor, William Bow, who had the honour of opening the Pond on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1924.

The forecast for the day was dry but cloudy with wind of around 8 mph and generally south-easterly in direction. The wind itself decided to be generally easterly and seldom above 5 mph. Race Officer Robert Rooney set a square course with a beat along the south bank of the pond, a reach, a run, a second reach, and a second beat to the finish.

Racing in two heats commenced promptly at 11.00 a.m. David Belding won the first heat, closely followed by Patrick Johnston and Cameron Darroch. Gordon Allison won the second heat, closely followed by Ian Davidson and Nick Slane.

Gordon Allison won the second race from David Belding, Patrick Johnston, David Bell and Cameron Darroch. Arthur Black had been promoted to A Heat in the second race and finished sixth to remain in A Heat for the third race and displace Ian Davidson into the corresponding B Heat.

Arthur Black comfortably won the third race, followed by Patrick Johnston, David Belding and Gordon Allison. Ian Davidson immediately returned to the A Heat in race three and finished fifth to retain his spot in A Heat for race four. David Bell made his first appearance among the leaders taking sixth place and also remained in A Heat.

A half-hour lunch break was taken around 12.30 with some hope that the forecast breeze might make an appearance.

As the wind remained light and easterly an unchanged course was appropriate after lunch. On resuming, Andrew Riddell was delighted to win the B Heat of race four and he followed this by taking sixth place in the A Heat, so staying there for the last race. Elsewhere in the A Heat, Patrick Johnston took first place followed by Gordon Allison with Arthur Black rejoining the leaders in third. Ian Davidson won race five from Patrick Johnston and David Belding with Gerry McCulloch fourth.

Discounting the seeding race, the three leading skippers never experienced racing in B Heat while the bottom three skippers never reached the heights of racing in A Heat. Campbell Logan bobbed up and down between the heats and sailed in eight of the ten heats completed in the day, while Cameron Darroch, Andrew Riddell, Gerry McCulloch and David Bell also had their money's worth by each sailing in seven heats.

It was disappointing that the wind was resolutely light throughout the day. However, skill was required to take advantage of stronger puffs and to sail around windless voids. Much of the time the line judges enjoyed clear separation between finishing yachts, but on occasion up to four yachts approached the finishing line almost together, testing the judges' skills.

When the scores were tallied up, Patrick Johnston came first overall and won the William Bow Trophy with Gordon Allison second, one point behind, and David Belding third, a further point back. Ian Davidson finished fourth a few points behind the leaders, with Arthur Black fifth, one point behind Ian.

Cameron Darroch, a new member of Paisley in 2024, finished in sixth well ahead of the next new Paisley member to take the award for 'Best Improver.'

Patrick Johnston thanked the Race Team of Robert Rooney, David Smith and Alastair Wyper for the smooth and efficient running of the event which had contributed to everyone's enjoyment of the day.