



MEDIA RELEASE

Helly Hansen Chester Race Week, Day 3: No wind, no races

CHESTER, NOVA SCOTIA (AUGUST 12, 2022) — On Day 3 of Helly Hansen Chester Race Week, there was no wind, so the racing was cancelled.

The lack of wind didn't stop the competitors from making the best of the day, though.

Robert Merchant is the skipper of Auster, a Roue 20 competing in the inshore fleet.

"We were hoping we'd get some breeze, and it kept filling in and then dying. They just called it because obviously it wasn't going to work. You know it happens and you move onto the next day," Merchant said. "There was a lot of swimming, hydrating, and trying to stay a little bit out of the sun because the sun did break through."

"Thankfully we do have another day and it looks like there will be some breeze and that will be great."

Merchant and Auster won the inshore fleet on Day 1 and Day 2.

On Day 1, Merchant said a couple of the Roues in the fleet missed the mark.

On Day 2, Merchant said he caught a shift on the right-side of the course, which put Auster in a very strong position.

Merchant has been racing at Chester Race Week since 1975.

"It's hard to beat the venue, first of all," Merchant said. "Mahone Bay is a fabulous place to sail. You generally get awesome conditions, other than today, which was a bit of an anomaly. The sailing is extremely high level, particularly in the last 10 years when they started to do the one-design fleet with windward leeward. That has made all the difference in the world."

The forecast for Day 4, the final day of racing, is calling for showers. Still, Merchant said he and Auster's crew are feeling good.

“Presto is the other very strong competitor, along with Andrew Murphy in Cavalier. We know we’ve got to be on our A game and bring as much experience to the day as we can. They’re both excellent competitors.”

“I wish all the competitors to have a great, safe race day tomorrow. We’re really looking forward to it.”

About Helly Hansen Chester Race Week

Hosted by the Chester Yacht Club in the picturesque South-Shore Nova Scotia village of Chester in mid-August each year, Helly Hansen Chester Race Week is Canada’s largest keelboat regatta (four days of sailing) and plays host to more than 120 boats from near and far.

Named one of *Sailing World* magazine’s 14 greatest sailing events in North America, each August, 1,200- plus sailors arrive on Nova Scotia’s scenic Mahone Bay to compete in one of 15 fleets racing simultaneously on five different racecourses. Our fleets accommodate everyone from offshore big boats and one designs, to classic wooden boats, club racers, and no-spinnaker cruising boats.

Chester’s sailing regattas were [first documented in 1856](#) and, since then, tourists and locals alike have taken in the natural beauty of the area by both land and sea. A community-based, volunteer-driven event, Helly Hansen Chester Race Week boasts a full schedule of public-friendly events with live music, great food, yacht races, plus racing seminars from internationally renowned sailors, tacticians, boat builders and sailmakers. Visit www.ChesterRaceWeek.com

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