

Liverpool Yacht Club held the fourth race in their Brass Monkey series on Sunday February 14th. Pania was the day's Race Officer and faced with a light NNW that looked decidedly fluky decided to set a St. Valentine's Day course that if judged correctly would at least get the boats well upriver on the tide. Crews had earlier been checking that their anchors were readily available for deployment if required!

Neil Thomas was almost unable to make the start as the Police decided that his "Pulling" car, an Aston Martin, was too dangerous to be on the streets on St Valentine's Day and impounded it!! (Computer error.) Through out the race Tango flirted with the boys failing to kiss Pluckington by no more than one inch, E2 by two inches and was very coy at G7 only approaching to within 12 inches!

The combined fleet of nine yachts, all following the same course set off upriver with spinnakers flying to pass M to starboard before turning at G9 to tack back against the tide to G7 before another Spinnaker run upriver to G9. The two Prima 38's were neck and neck at this stage but a spinnaker wine glass may have proved decisive in their dual. After G9 skippers had to make a choice of whether to beat up the Garston channel before attempting to cross the river to the Eastham side or dash straight across. The faster class 1 yachts went straight across whereas the slower class 2 yachts largely opted for the Garston route. After E2 it was a beat back to the finish line.

As both fleets raced on the same course an overall view on handicap is interesting with Stuart Lofthouse's Impala Skukusa coming first 65 seconds ahead of Steve Harrison' Sigma 33 Quattro who were I second faster than Neil Thomas's Prima 38 Mighty Max II. Line honours in the two classes went to Mighty Max II and Quattro.

Richard Baldwin

Results:

Class 1	Skipper	Boat	Type	Elapsed time	Adjusted time
1 st .	Neil Thomas	Mighty Max II	Prima 38	5251	5666
2 nd .	Jim Cartwright	Daydream Believer	Ben. First 34.7	5744	5767
3 rd .	Richard Booth	Another Nods	Prima 38	5408	5819
Class 2					
1 st .	Stuart Lofthouse	Skukusa	Impala	6356	5600
2 nd .	Steve Harrison	Quattro	Sigma 33	6198	5665
3 rd .	Richard Baldwin	Tango	Super Seal 26	6974	5900