

Liverpool Yacht Club

Early Autumn Race Series

Race 2

During the 2008 Cowes week event it was widely reported amongst the yachting press when the race fleet duly rounded the windward mark whilst it was suspended in mid air off a floating crane whilst being jet washed! The fifteen strong fleet of Liverpool Yacht Club racers went one better on Sunday. The first mark of the course literally had tacticians seeing double as G3 old and new were positioned side by side on the bow of a ship that was replacing the old buoy. No bother to the fleet as they simply raced around the ship and carried on the two excellent class 1 and two courses set by Bobby Nightingale.

Class 1

PL G3 E2 G9 E6 DG G7 DG DK

Class 1 was led by the two evenly matched Prima 38's of Another Nods and Mighty Max whom as always tactically match raced each other around the course. There were numerous position changes throughout the other yachts with sleeper making a stunning recovery after an OCS. The doldrums of E6 proved tricky as some yachts misjudged it and were carried down by the tide in a large wind hole. The gruelling course of some nineteen miles was made all the more challenging by the last leg from Dukes to the finish against a 4 knot tide. One yacht nearly came unstuck on the gybe around dukes as the helmsmen and mainsheet trimmer ended up in a heap when the tiller snapped, narrowly avoiding a hefty collision with the mark. The Prima battle was eventually won by Another Nods with Mighty Max creeping up the wall trying to escape the adverse tide one minute later. Next in a close on the water finish were Ulula and Sleeper with the chasing pack of Daydream Believer, F word and Rebel all finishing within 12 seconds. On corrected time, the winner was the F word with Another Nod's second and Sleeper Third.

Class 2

PL G3 G2DG G9 G3

The Changeable conditions saw the Class 2 fleet of eight yachts also changing position with regularity. Di Rich had an outstanding comeback from the rear to finish fourth on the water, although this is subject to redress. Unfortunately, a wayward gust forced retirement from Tango and JLS retired. Stuart Lofthouse in his Impala Skukusa had line honours with Mistoffelees second. Catch 32, lapped up the windier periods in the race and crossed the line only eighteen seconds behind Di Rich. On corrected time another excellently sailed race from Clairvoyant saw them overall winners with, Skukusa second, Catch 32 third and DI Rich fourth*.

Andy Farrell