

LIVERPOOL YACHT CLUB

RACE REPORT

SBYC SPRING 1

The forecast had warned of 3 knots from the west by the time the thirteen yachts began the first race in the Liverpool Yacht Club Spring Series. Nine knots SSE were recorded by Race Officer Geoff Whittaker and crew of Ragtime IV, a yacht that LYC will welcome back to racing in the coming weeks after a lengthy sideline.

Before the race LYC flagship Gulmaren took advantage of the neap tide by punching the minimal flood up to Dukes buoy. Flash 2 was also welcomed back into action, with a few nervous looks from fellow skippers who know just how well this boat is campaigned.

The start was under way with Mighty Max, Flash and Rebel in close contention mid river. Skukusa and The F Word just edged around Pluckington on the first true beat up to E2. With this series seeing both classes 1 & 2 racing the same courses it was Mighty Max, F Word and Flash 2 that began to stretch out a lead. Quattro, Musketeer, Rebel and Skuksua led the rest of the fleet with Mistoffolees, tango, Legless and Clairvoyant still making good progress at the back, and maybe after the first half of the race winning on corrected time.

The fetch across to G7 was white sails for the leading pack but the majority of class 2 went for spinnakers on a very shy reach as the wind lightened, causing difficult sailing particularly for the heavier yachts of Rebel and Catch 32.

Max pulled away on the cross river leg to E4, with F Word being chased down hard by Flash whom had caught it on the fetching legs. Neil Thomas used good seamanship at E4 when a tanker blocked his route of leaving the mark to starboard, after his channel 12 communication techniques were abandoned, they tacked a boat length short to avoid the obstruction and promptly reported to the OD, taking a penalty (after launching the kite!!)

The slower class 2 yachts really struggled at E2 as the breeze dropped off. The lighter designs of Flash and F Word rode out the last of the pressure to pull out a healthy lead. Unfortunately Catch 32 had to retire but the gallant efforts of the remaining fleet paid off and all others finished. Mighty Max was first over the line, the The F Word and Flash.

Overall It was Flash first, F Word, Mighty Max.

Class 1: The F Word, Mighty Max, Rebel

Class 2: Flash 2, Musketeer, Clairevoyant.

Andy Farrell