

The final race of the Liverpool Yacht club's Harrison Advanced Rods Summer Series was held on Sunday August 23rd. After a superb summers day on the Saturday when much of the racing fleet went to the Albert Dock for a "party" the weather on Sunday had become Autumnal with a F5 and at time F6 southerly under leaden skies. This combined with an almost 10m tide created very rough conditions particularly in mid channel with wind over tide producing large closely packed waves many with white horses!! After the race, several skippers commented that they were having second thoughts about starting the race once they got onto the river.

Race Officer Paul Hampson started the race from the International start line adjacent to the Albert Dock and sent both fleets, most of which had reefed down for the beat up river to the Eastham channel. Two reaches and a run followed this back to the start line. During the race, the wind eased and the winners were those that increased their sail area and flew their spinnakers first. After reaching the start line there was a beat back into what for the smaller yachts was an increasingly strong ebb tide back up river before the final turn and run to the normal finish line. Of the thirteen yachts that started, the race 4 decided to retire.

Nick Ogden's J122 Ulula was the only class 1 yacht and there win made them the joint winners with Andy Farrell's the "f" word.

In the combined class 2 race Adam Kyffin and Jon Oliver's formula 28 Flash II put in her normally professional performance to take line and class honours and on handicap was the fastest boat on the day. They were followed by Steve Harrison's Sigma 33 Quattro who after handicap just managed to hold onto fourth place 10 seconds ahead of Richard Baldwin's Superseal Tango. However earlier in the series Steve had chalked up four wins to take the series, he was sponsoring. Stuart Lofthouse's Impala Skukusa was third across the line but was beaten to second place by Annie Ward and Andy Napper's GK24 Di-Rich. The tightest adjusted result had two seconds separating Paul Boycott's Impala Impact and Andy Freeney's Hunter HB 31 skippered on the day by John Clark. This was important for the series as it enabled Paul to take second place in the series ahead of Andy who was third. Jeanette and Dave Hardy made their debut appearance in their successor to Hocus Pocus Black Magic, an Impala to make a mini fleet of three. The last boat to complete the course was Richard Campbell's Achilles 24 Clarevouyant. Because of the very strong tide, they struggled to make it back to the marina against the very strong tide but just made it ahead of help from the inshore rescue service.

Results

Class	Skipper	Boat	Type	Elapsed time	Adjusted time
1 st .	Nick Ogden	Ulula	J122	1 15 48	4935
Class 2					
1 st .	Adam Kyffin & Jon Oliver	Flash II	Formula 28	1 27 34	4813
2 nd .	Annie Ward & Andy Napper	Di-Rich	GK24	1 40 38	5066
3 rd .	Stuart Lofthouse	Skukusa	Impala	1 38 16	5194

Richard Baldwin