

## **LIVERPOOL YACHT CLUB**

### **RACE REPORT**

#### **Harrison Advanced Rods – Summer 4**

With the weather over the last few weeks being stormy and humid the prediction software had been way off track, often predicting 8 – 10 knots when 20 – 30 was closer to the truth. It was then, a pleasant surprise when the wind and rain gave way to a light SSW and some sunshine as the crews assembled before yesterday's race. The Skipper and crew of Impact set an excellent course with a late (and excellent) call being made to race both fleets against each other in a single class.

Twelve boats made the start line which was considerable as some of our fleet had accompanied flagship Gullmaren into the Albert Dock for maritime festivities, including a World Record Pirates Day event?! A clean start ensued with The F Word first out the blocks, Mighty Max closely following behind and a pack of hungry Sigmas accompanied by the beautiful new Corby 36 Ulula just astern. The wind angle narrowed on the beat to E2 and some of the fleet got caught out and had to tack to make the rounding. Once round it was spinnakers up and the F word with a borrowed crew had mistakenly rigged on starboard, needing to gybe to follow Max and Ulula whom had by now powered past. The pack behind was spreading with the Sigmas and Flash 2 out front. Mistoffolees and Tango battled out further back with Saphoenix and their skeleton crew being slightly more leisurely than normal. Catch 32 was enjoying the heavier conditions and Pania and Tango were duly powering through. Clairevoyant was sailing well and perhaps showed the cleanest spinnaker work throughout the day, launching on all 4 kite legs. The F Word chased the two big boats hard and was planing at 11 plus knots downwind, pulling out a significant lead on the heavier displacement Sigma 33's until the rounding of G3 where the (spectra!) outhaul snapped. A quick fix was to put in a reef, not a bad idea anyway as the wind was now over 20 knots regularly.

Two close battles between the Mighty Max and Ulula and Quattro and Musketeer saw them finishing within 30 seconds of one another in their respective contests. Mighty Max's huge spinnaker "let go" on the finish line and it looked like it might end up wrapped around the iconic Lyver Birds at the pier head.

The F Word ran out winners, with the two class 1 boats of Mighty Max and Ulula second and third. The Sigma battle was won by Musketeer, pipping Quattro on the line by sixteen seconds.

Andy Farrell