

Vane 36 club Winter Series, 14 January 2017

What is it about the weather conditions for our 36 racing? The forecast for Saturday was for bitterly cold conditions and a strong, gusty north westerly to ease the temperatures down in case we were tempted to forget it was early January. Despite that we had an entry of six boats, plus, as a result of treacherous winter road conditions, one latecomer. Race officer Paul Edwards kept up a brisk pace to avoid frozen skipper syndrome, and a full round was completed in about 2.5 hours of excellent racing.

On the day the breeze co-operated with a good, if gusty, No 2 rig beat from the west bank, giving plenty of close tacking off the bank. The gusts dissuaded most from setting spinnakers, except Jacque and Eric whose spinnaker work put down a marker for the season to come. Best scorers on the downwind legs were Roy and Dick, whose lightweight Creed design relished the conditions taking every run they sailed. Best scoring to windward were Jacque and Eric, who with their new Diversion similarly took every beat. By the end of the round the scores were very close, with Jacque and Eric winning by three points from Roy and Dick, and Mervyn and Andy just one point behind in third place.

Fourth were Graham and Ray, perhaps having a rare off day. Then in fifth place were Alex and Eileen, sailing faster as the morning went on and they gained confidence. It was good to see Eileen having a go even in such cold conditions. Pete and Jay had a challenging day, with numerous breakages, but showed good turns of speed from time to time and will I'm sure be back with a vengeance in the future. Lastly, Allan Oxlade's ultra-narrow Gecko trailed the fleet, gaining valuable experience with the boat.

For such an early start to the season we enjoyed superb racing, in almost ideal conditions. The next 36 racing will be on Saturday the 4th of February; I look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget, for those of you who can get away, we also have practice sailing for vane boats every Friday morning and there are always 36's on the water. This is an excellent opportunity to tune your boat against others, as well as being very sociable!

The next club vane event is for A's on Sunday 29th January.

Mervyn

Results

1st Jacque Cook and Eric Meighen, 21 points.

- 2nd Roy Scott and Dick Howell, 18 points.
- 3rd Mervyn Cook and Andy Fernie, 17 points.
- 4th Graham Wyeth and Ray Baker, 12 points.
- 5th Alex Kennaby, 5 points.
- 6th Pete Lawley and Jay Britton, 0 points.
- 7th Allan Oxlade, TLFS.