

## Vane 36 club series Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

For the third race day of the Winter Series, we were promised (by the Met Office!) a warm, sunny day with light breezes. Summer at last, and in longed-for contrast to previous weekends. Sadly however the misty weather decided to cling on for another day, so it was cold again. But the wind was a relatively steady south-easterly, making for guyed starboard tack beats towards the marinas. Nice, comfortable top rig sailing.

Seven boats entered, with a variety of designs and construction. Race officers Roy Scott and Mervyn Cook set a short postponement vainly hoping that the mist would lift, but got the racing going by 10.15. A brisk pace was maintained, to avoid anyone getting too cold. A lunch break was held at about 12.15, which gave the fleet the chance to warm up and take on energy for the final two heats, and a full round was completed by just after 2.30.

In the racing there were some very close boards, particularly on the beats. Different designs showed different characteristics, the grip of the deeper V'd boats allowing them to point higher than the flatter sectioned designs. The standard of sailing was high overall, with skippers in their stride now as the season wears on. Graham and Ray, sailing a Hollom design, gave a master-class by dropping only two runs over the whole day, winning with 26 points. Jacque and Eric's *Diversion*, having lost out to Graham on their beat together, was a close second with 25 points. Third were Peter and Paul, sailing a Martin Dovey designed *Sybor*, with 19 points. Fourth with 17 points were David Mathers and Allan Oxlade, sailing their Dann designed *Gecko*. Fifth with 11 points were Pete Lawley and Jay Britton, sailing their beautiful John Gale built planked boat. Sixth were Bob and Gill Pearson's *Diversion*, with five points, and last, but not least was Alex Kennaby, who had been struggling with a sticky vane gear throughout.

An enjoyable day's racing despite the cold weather, in the most pleasant breeze of the year so far. The next 36 racing will be on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, which will be the first of the summer series. The next vane racing will be for A's in two weeks time on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mervyn