

Vane 36 Racing, Saturday 3rd June 2017

Having previously lost quite a few weeks of sailing to the weed, the 3rd was the first scheduled day when racing was possible following the cut of the 22nd May. Sadly, a recce on the previous Friday showed that the weed had returned, with string weed clumps throughout and some major rafts of matt weed over some 25% of the south bank. Stronger winds on the Saturday caused some of this to drop to the bottom, but there remained large areas where boats got stuck. It was decided to go ahead with the racing, starting on port tack where possible to keep the second tack away from the weed. Needless to say, it being vane racing, most boats beat into the weeded area at some time, and mates were to be seen tacking with the very end of the pole, while cantilevering their bodies as far out over the lake as possible. Happily, by sheer luck, no-one fell in!

The day was a superb, glittery, breezy summer day, with 7 boats entered, all but one with a mate. The squally nature of the unstable westerly saw most sailing in second or third rig. The wind slowly increased during the day, and there were some very fast down-wind legs. Race duties were shared among competitors and family supporters.

Peter and Paul, sailing their Martin Dovey 'Sybora' design, opened their campaign well and in the first two heats chalked up a solid ten points. Mervyn and Andy, sailing their infamous Mike Dann designed 'Diversion', responded with ten from the first and third heats. Jacque and Eric, with their new winged 'Diversion' also took a solid five from the third heat. Graham and Ray, sailing a Hollom design took both boards in heats five and six, while Shaun and Lewis, also sailing a Hollom boat, also clocked up ten points in heats five and seven. Both Hollom boats seemed to get faster as the breeze increased. Roy and Dick, sailing a Creed 'Lintel' design, worked on the balance of the boat during the day and started to take points towards the end. Alex's lightweight boat struggled at times in the breeze, particularly on the beats but with the help of the bye-boat mates scored some useful points on the down-wind legs.

Racing stopped for lunch at about 12.15, and continued afterwards until a full round was completed at about 2.45. The winners were Mervyn and Andy, with 21 points, just one point ahead of Peter and Paul with 20. Close racing in a quality fleet! Third with 19 were Lewis and Shaun, followed by Jacque and Eric with 16. Fifth were Graham and Ray with 14, followed by Roy and Dick with 9, and then Alex with 6. A great and good natured days racing!

Thanks are due to the entire fleet for helping with all the duties, raising shutters, putting the flags out, helping the one boat without a mate and starting the races. Also, thanks to Eileen for doing the all-important finishers job. You haven't won until your sail number is recorded! Thanks to Jacque also for operating the entry and scoring system.

Our next vane racing will be A's on the 18th of June. There are only three more days of vane A racing before Fleetwood, so the practice and fettling time will be important. We can only hope that by some miracle the weed doesn't get any worse!

Mervyn