

Vane 36 club racing, 2nd in Winter series

The news media was forecasting a huge storm for Friday night, which amazingly had blown itself out completely by race-day morning. In fact there was so little wind at 09.30 that the race officer considered postponing the start until something stirred! However, a rather fickle light westerly arrived just in time, and the six boats started as scheduled, most with their biggest rigs. There were certainly some big shifts in the breeze however, and final places were won or lost at times to the odd south westerly lift at the playground end just by the finishing line.

In the heats running up to the lunch-break new 36 sailors Bob and Gill Pearson, sailing their new (but well-known) pink Diversion Mk 2, had chalked up enough wins to be lying second overall. Graham and Ray, however, echoed their run of success in last weekends A's by winning everything except one run. Others were enjoying less obvious success, being sucked into the dead area under the club. Race officer Mervyn Cook called a halt for a short lunch break at about 12.30 when Bob and Gill damaged their vane pin. After lunch, in the final two heats, Graham and Ray scorched to a well deserved win, taking every board throughout the day except just the one run. Second overall were Jacque and Eric, sailing their new Diversion with a superb Cat-sails lightweight big rig, and third Bob and Gill also sporting a big rig.

Altogether an enjoyable day's racing, and given the light fluky breeze there was surprisingly only one re-sail. Well done fleet! The next 36 racing is scheduled for next Saturday, the 11th of Feb. Hope to see you there!

Mervyn