

Vane 36 race day, Saturday April 8th.

Six fully crewed boats, plus race officer Allan Oxlade, turned up to race in the forecast very light winds. The start was postponed for 15 minutes, by which time a gentle east-south-easterly had established itself, and with their big rigs the 36's showed a good turn of speed.

The racing was so close: there were some wins measured in inches! The experienced crew of Graham Wyeth and Ray Baker dropped their first beat to young Jay Britton and Pete Lawley, but from then on piled in the wins to win overall by a single point. Jacque Cook and Eric Meighen, with their new boat got into their stride early, and finished second, again by a single point. Mervyn Cook, sailing with Lester Gilbert, put together some well judged spinnaker runs, but had to be content with third place, again by a single point. In fourth place were Peter Fothergill and Paul Edwards, once again losing out by a single point!

Jay and Pete were fifth overall, just beating Shaun and Lewis Wyeth to a very unaccustomed last place, but once again by a single point. The closeness of the scores indicates how competitive this fleet has become. The charm of the class is that it will perform in any conditions, sailing well in very light winds and easy to handle in a real breeze. We have a club boat which is available to members who would like to try vane racing. Please get in touch if you'd like to have a go; I will be happy to help with support and any tuition needed.

Our next 36 event is on Saturday May 6th. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Mervyn

Class Captain