

Vane 36 Racing Saturday 26th August 2017

Late August warm balmy weather.... Light south-westerly winds, easing at times more to the south. Apart from the rapidly growing forest around the playground, which teases the breeze in that corner of the lake, perfect sailing!

Five boats came to the line; sadly for Jacque her wrist is still out of action so she acted as race officer, with Eileen doing starter/finish duties at the west end of the lake. With five boats there was a bye in every heat, so the crews of the bye boats (the friends referred to in the last paragraph) helped Alex Kennaby.

There were some very close finishes, notably in the first windward board when Peter Fothergill and Paul Edwards beat Pete Lawley and Jay Britton by a just a few inches. The challenge on the windward legs was to keep the boats away from the doldrums under the windward bank. Settings were difficult, needing a few degrees off a true beat, and changing every time. Graham Wyeth and Ray Baker started the day well, as did Peter and Paul in the pre-lunch heats.

After lunch the wind was backing even further towards the south west, and by the final heat it became clear that the results of the beat between Peter and Paul, racing Mervyn Cook and Eric Meighen, would decide the day. Having choice, Mervyn and Eric elected to start to leeward, and leebowed Peter and Paul's Sybora to the tree-line. Both boats were drawn into the bank, the Sybora first, where an efficient retrim by Paul allowed their boat to overtake and pick up their crucial point.

The closely matched fleet comprised a variety of boats. The winning boat of Peter and Paul was designed by Martin Dovey and built by Ray Baker; In second place, a Diversion, raced by Mervyn and Eric was designed and built by Mike Dann; third was a Dave Hollom design raced by Graham and Ray and built by Pete Lawley, fourth with Skipper Alex and friends was a traditional quite lightweight but unknown design and build, and fifth just behind Alex, was Pete and Jay's boat built by John Gale and beautifully planked and varnished.

The next vane racing will be A's on Sunday 3rd September. Please let me know if you plan to sail.

Mervyn