

Vane A Racing, Sunday 1st October 2017

Hooray!!! The forecast inclement weather stayed away!!!

Five skilled and experienced skippers and their mates seized the opportunity for some excellent, and at times nail-biting racing. What is more.... I managed to take some photographs.

For many heats it was nip and tuck all the way. Some beats were achieved without banking, but even so the wind shifts and gusts led to boats sailing a less than direct course. Sometimes boats finished on opposite sides of the lake, in different wind angles, leading to some extraordinary results.

Shaun Wyeth and mate Eric Meighen, today sailing '*N-Lightened*', took an unexpected win by inches when she found an freeing gust a few feet from the finish, and accelerated past Graham Wyeth and Ray Baker's '*Minstrel*' design. Lewis Wyeth and mate Russell Wyeth's '*Sea the Stars*' were well and truly robbed of their beat having led all the way, when in the last seconds Graham and Ray shot past them to win by inches. Today, Lewis and Russell had several races when they had the misfortune to just miss out on the win. Boat No 76, '*Lance*', sailed by Anthony Warren and Lester Gilbert, showed everyone a clean pair of heels on the beats, winning every board. Sadly however they failed to get the runs dialled in.... We'll all have to watch out when that happens.

Peter Fothergill and Paul Edwards had a dream day, sailing '*Zest*', another '*Minstrel*' design, missing out on a 100% score when they narrowly lost to Anthony and Lester on their beat.

In all a highly competitive day, exciting and full of good humour. With two more races to go to the end of the season, on 5th November and 3rd December, it is clear that this year '*Zest*' is the boat to beat. Unless, of course, Anthony and Lester find top gear on the runs! Our thanks to Alex Kennaby and Mervyn Cook for their somewhat chilly time spent starting and finishing the races.

Many thanks also to everyone who supported the McMillan Cancer appeal on Friday and Sunday, at the expense of their waistlines. I was able to pay £40.00 in to the charity fund this morning, far exceeding my target of £25. A fitting close to a superb weekend's sailing.

Jacque