

Vane A racing, Sunday 20th August

This was the first day's racing since the lay-off during the weed problems, and the first after the wild and woolly Fleetwood championship. Despite the stormy weather during the week, Sunday was expected to be sunny and warm, with brisk a south westerly top suit breeze. What a treat!

Schedules were prepared for six boats, but in the event Anthony sadly was ill and couldn't sail, and Jacque was also sidelined with a suspected broken wrist. So five boats came to the line, a very competitive fleet of vane A's.

The first couple of heats saw impressive performances from Lewis Wyeth and his brother Russell, sailing a Hollom 'Sea the Stars' design, whose speed to windward put their opponents into the shade! As the racing continued, however, Peter Fothergill, (sailing today with Paul Edwards) with a Hollom 'Minstrel' design, and Shaun Wyeth sailing a Hollom 'Sir Ivor', started to draw away. It was touch and go as to whether spinnakers were advantageous, due to the rather swirly breeze, but most boats flew them at times. Mervyn Cook and Eric Meighen sailing a Simpson lightweight 'Lightening' had a pretty patchy day, and Graham Wyeth and Ray Baker sailing a 'Minstrel' had a truly forgettable day by their normal standards!

It was noticeable that the skippers who had recently been tempered by a week's hard racing at Fleetwood were sailing at the top of their form. The rest of us, after the long lay-off, just didn't compete! So at the end of the day, Peter and Paul won on count-back, from Shaun, mated by crews available during their bye board. The two boats were both Hollom designs, the 'Minstrel' being the little sister of the 'Sir Ivor'. In third place were Lewis and Russell, fourth were Mervyn and Eric, and fifth Graham and Ray.

Next Saturday will be vane 36's, and the last opportunity for tuning up before the National Championship in Bournville. Then there is the weekend of the visit of the American team at Gosport over the 16th and 17th of September. We are expecting over 20 boats for this event, so it should be fun!