

Vane A Club Racing, Sunday 27th March 2017

This the first day of Summer time, and the first event of the points Series, saw a race officer and four A's, eight competitors, ready to sail. The very strong overnight wind had reduced to a squally east north easterly, shifting at times in the east end of the lake to bring in some south-easterly gusts, just to keep us on our toes. Thanks to sterling work from Pete, Anthony and Lester's boat, badly damaged in the stormy racing two weeks ago, was up and sailing again this Sunday.

Damage to skippers wasn't a matter of applying carbon and epoxy, and sadly Malcolm's foot will take a bit longer to heal. (Hope you get better soon, Malcolm, racing A's without you and Ruby there isn't the same!) Jacque was also suffering from recent attention from the chiropractor, so Mervyn sailed N-Lightened with Eric, and Paul teamed up with Peter to race Zest.

Race officer Bob Pearson got the racing under way and for the first few boards the breeze had eased somewhat, only to strengthen again towards mid-day. There were significant wind bends coming around the clubhouse, and walking the boats off as they came in to the south bank paid dividends. To windward, luck/skill with guying helped too, as there was no benefit in coming anywhere near the north side of the lake. Anthony and Lester kept the heavier weight 'Shield' very high, seeking the freeing shifts and hoping to make it with minimum tacking. Peter and Paul sailing 'Zest' were second overall, dropping only two boards in the morning's racing. Graham and Ray had chosen to sail their most recent Hollom designed boat, and showed superb speed to windward but the very deep V hull made the very close-angled tacks off the north bank difficult. Eric and Mervyn, sailing the lightweight Simpson 'N-Lightened' chose to use their skinny mainsail, and relished the conditions to win with only one board dropped. Anthony and Lester sailed their heavy displacement 'Shield' quite high, seeking to use the lifts to make it in one if possible. Unexpectedly, given the strength of the gusts, it was a day for the lighter boats, with the two heavier displacement boats bringing up the rear for once.

The next Vane A racing will be on the 23rd of April. Hope to see you all there.

Mervyn