

Vane A club race, Sunday 29th January 2017

The first vane a race of the season dawned to a forecast of the sort we are becoming used to, heavy rain and a strong wind, in this case compounding the problems by blowing from the south.

Wonderful! However, we turned out six boats, with 14 club members involved in the day's racing. New vane sailors Bob and Gill Pearson bravely elected to do the starter and finisher duties, muffled up with proper wet weather gear. A special mention also for Shaun who fished a huge branch and some weed out of the lake before we could sail.

We did in fact complete most of our sailing in a weather window slotted between rain storms, but the wind direction, varying between due south and south south west, made the choice of windward/leeward boards difficult. The moderate breeze allowed boats to carry full sail however, and the close reach/broad reaching boards visibly favoured the heavier displacement boats with longer water lines.

Despite that, the top boat by the end of the morning was the lightweight Hollom *Minstrel* design sailed by Graham Wyeth and Ray Baker, sailing together as a team for the first time. They won every beat, and enough of the broad reaches to pip Malcolm and Paul's heavier Hollom *Sir Ivor 52* design' by two points. Third and only one point behind was Graham's grandson Lewis, sailing another Hollom with his father Shaun, followed another two points behind by Jacque and Eric's super-lightweight Simpson *Lightening*.

The reachy conditions made for quite a lot of re-sails, but this was handled effectively by new race officers Bob and Gill, and the fleet remained good natured throughout. Even when the serious rain came in before the last re-sails were completed. A good day's racing, and in the prevailing weather conditions the three hours to complete a single round was more than enough for many of the crews.

The next club vane racing will be for 36's, next Saturday the 4th February. Hope to see you there. The next racing for A's will be in four weeks time, on the 26th of February.

Mervyn

PS. **Please take this as a reminder for 36 racing on Saturday 4th February.** Please let us know if you plan to sail. This makes Jacque's job of compiling schedules and rigging her boat much easier.