

## Vane A Racing Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March

The real winner was the weather! We knew from the forecasts that the day would be windy and wet but there was a window between 10 and 12 that looked possible..... Despite that overall forecast there was a great turn out of six boats, all but one with a mate as well as a skipper. The sun was shining at the start but half way down the first beat the heavens opened and all and sundry got soaked! As the morning progressed the conditions worsened.

However, the sailing was exciting and extremely fast. There was some excellent spinnaker flying by some brave souls often fielded expertly by other competitors at the end of the lake! Shaun Wyeth was the beat king winning every one in spite of his varied mates. Down wind, Jacque Cook and mate Eric Meighen tied with Peter Fothergill and mate Andy Fernie and with Anthony Warren and mate Lester Gilbert for first place. The extreme weather contributed to the woes of Malcolm Eales and mate Paul Edwards as their boat was first damaged and then holed. Racing was abandoned before the downwind board of the fourth race when conditions deteriorated making sailing hazardous. This was confirmed when the heaviest boat continued, braving the elements but, sadly, damaged her bow. Other casualties included a vane pin coming out and another being bent.

Demonstrating how close the competition was three points separated the overall winner, Anthony and Lester from Shaun a point behind in second place and Peter and Andy in third. In spite of the difficulties with the boat Malcolm and Paul were third one point ahead of Jacque and Eric. Graham and Ray were sixth.

Bearing in mind the appalling conditions heartfelt thanks goes to Mervyn Cook and Bob Pearson who, thoroughly drenched, organised and ran the racing for us. They could have been snug in the club house..... thank you gentlemen.

Jacque