

*Vane 36 club racing, April 28th 2018*

*Seven boats turned out for the club series racing on a cool, overcast Saturday. The fleet comprised five different designs, from three designers. As forecast the breeze was from the NW, shifty as it found it's way past Morrisons and Halfords! Alan Oxlade, Alex Kennaby and Eileen Cooper took on starting and finishing duties.*

*At times super-sized rigs might have been useful but the shifts and gusts made the working No 1's the correct choice. In the early heats the eventual podium boats staked their claims by beating their opponents both ways, with Jacque and Eric's 'Diversion' beating David's 'Gecko', and Lewis and Russell's 'Road Runner' beating both Thomas and Shaun's similar boat, and David's 'Gecko'. Peter and Paul, sailing a 'Sybora', beat both Anthony and Lester's 'Diversion' but in turn were beaten by Thomas and Shaun's 'Road Runner' in the second heat.*

*The breeze was continually shifting and veering towards the north, making it difficult at times to get the boats off either windward or leeward banks, especially under the dreaded knuckle! Several crews came to grief there, and valuable places were lost as boats became sucked in. There were some heart-breakingly difficult finishes at the Marina end too, and a few boats lost out just inches from the line. After seven heats the overall points were so close, but Peter and Paul won the day with 25 points to Jacque and Eric's 23. Thomas and Shaun sailed well to come third with 15 points, closely followed by Lewis and Russell with 13 and David so close with 12. Graham and Ray were un-characteristically sixth with 9 points, just easing ahead of Anthony and Lester's 8.*

*Despite the shifty winds the little 36's provided enjoyable and challenging racing, proving once again that despite, or perhaps because of the differences in hull form and rigs the class provides extremely close competition. The next vane racing will be the A's on Sunday May 13th. Look forward to seeing you all there!*

*Once again, our thanks to Alan, Eileen and Alex for keeping the fleet under control!! Also, thanks to all those who helped with flags, mats and shutters.*

*Mervyn*